THE
Amorous Conquests
Of the Great
Alcander,
OR, THE
AMOURS
Of the French
KING,
And Madam
Montelpan.

LONDON,
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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE PREFACE.

ALthough these Memoirs seem to have very much of the Air of a Romance, yet there are very few that are more true. I Originally know the greater part of the Affairs, which I relate, and the rest comes from so good Hands, that I should be too blame to doubt the Truth of them. However

if some certain Circumstances, which ought to have been very secret, make it be believed, that I have added a great deal of my own, as those often do, that take upon them to Write, I desire the Reader to suspend his Judgment, until he can enquire after them from some body, who shall not be suspected by him. For example, if that which I relate of the Lyings in of Madam de Montespan, is any way surprising,

ng, since there were in the hamber only the Grand lcander, and two other omen, I pray him to con- der, that one of those o Women, may have told e of them, and that I ould not mention them as do, if I did not very well ow, what it was I say. I am accused of indis- etion, for Revealing that hich hath been told me, will answer to that, that am not at all engaged keep the Secret, nei-

ther

ther was it required at
Hands, that I ſhould ke
it. As for the other Ma
ters, there are few Me
who have been abroad
the World, that have
had ſome knowledge of the
and if I have had a mo
particular notice, it m
be believed, that it is,
cauſe I probably may ha
been my ſelf engaged in
Intrigue. 6 AI 55

So

THE
morous Conquests
Of the Great
Alcander,
With the
NTRIGUES
OF HIS
COURT.

THE Affairs of the Great *Alcander*, who was become the Terrour of all this E- and the Wonder of all did not hinder him some-

times from making Love. A
whereas it was impoſſible for
to make their Fortune, at le
without having the Honour of
good Graces, the Ladies as w
as the Cavaliers, made it their
fineſs to pleaſe him, and thoſe w
ſucceeded beſt therein, thou
the better of themſelves, althou
at bottom all People of Hon
did the leſs eſteem them.

Madam *de Monteſpan* was
of thoſe, and though ſhe mi
paſs for one of the faireſt C
tures in the World, yet there
ſomething more agreeable in
Wit, than in her Countenan
but all theſe fine Qualities w
obſcured by the faults of her
which was accuſtomed to the
notorious Deceits, ſo That
coſt her nothing: She was
one of the moſt Antient
lies of the Realm, and her
ance, as well as Beauty had been
Cauſe, that Monſieur *de Monte*

ad Courted her in Marriage, and had referred her before several others, who would have better fitted his occasions.

Madam *de Montespan*, who desired to be Married, only that she might take the more liberty, no sooner came to Court, but she had great designes upon the Grand *Alcander*'s Heart; but whereas it was at that time taken up, and that Madam *de la Valliere*, a Person of a mean Beauty, but who had in recompence a thousand other good Qualities, wholely possest it; she made many unprofitable advances, and was obliged at last to seek a Party elsewhere. She then despising every thing, that was not near the Crown, cast her Eyes upon the Heart of Monsieur, Brother to the Grand *Alcander*, who shew'd her a good Will, rather to make it be believed, that he was capable of being Amorous of Ladies, than because he resented any thing for

her, like love. *Monſieur* ſurpriz
thereby a great number of Peop
who did not think that he was ſe
ſible in regard of the fair Sex; b
the *Chevalier de Lorrain*, jealous
this new Correſpondence, ſoon ma
this young Prince return to his fo
mer inclinations, and having
Aſcendent over him, Madam
Monteſpan enjoyed only ſome a
pearances, whileſt he alone ſto
poſſeſt of his whole Favour.

Madam *de Monteſpan*, who
vered a place in *Monſieur*'s Hea
only becauſe ſhe had failed to g
the *Kings*, was yet more diſguſt
when ſhe ſaw that ſhe was to ſh
it with the *Chevalier de Lorr*
and not being able to comprehe
why ſo fine a Woman as ſhe w
ſhould be ſlighted for the ſake
that *Chevalier*, who had nothi
recommendable beſides his Bir
ſhe reſolved to ſeorn him,
ſlighted her, and mightily repro
ed *Monſieur*, who comforted hi

lf with the *Chevalier de Lor-*
ain.

In the mean time Madam *de*
Montespan's Beauty was the object
f the whole Court's desiers, and
articularly of Monsieur *de Lau-*
n's, the Great *Alcanders* Favou-
ite, a Man of no advantageous
tature, and of a very mean Meen;
ut who made up these two Faults,
ith two great Qualities. That is
o say, with much Wit, and a—
ertain I know not what, which
ccasioned, that when a Lady once
new him, she did not easiy quit
im for another. Besides his Fa-
our with the King, rendred him
ecommendable, so that Madam *de*
Montespan, who had heard these
ir Qualities discoursed of, and
esired to know by Experience,
whether they did not attribute to
im, more than he effectually had,
id not disdain the proffers of ser-
ice that he made her. However
here being a great deal of cun-

ning mixt with her Curiosity, h
made him languish five or six Week
before she would grant him th
least Favour, and while she mad
him wait for it, there hapned t
this Favourite, a business that migh
have ruined him with his Maste
if he had not been born more hap
py than wise.

The Great *Alcander*, as much
advanced as he was above all o
thers, was not of any other hu
mour, or temper, than Ordinary
Men; although he passionately lo
ved Madam *de la Valliere*, yet h
sometimes felt himself smitten wit
some other Ladies Beauty; and wa
glad to satisfie his desire. He ha
then such Sentiments as these fo
the Princess of *Monaco*, whose fa
vour Monsieur *de Lausun* was pos
sest of, and Monsieur *de Lausun*, be
cause he did believe himself capa
ble, by reason of his great Quali
ties, which I have before menti
oned, to preserve the Princess o

Monaco'

naco's Amity, and to gain Ma-
m de Montespan's Heart, did for-
d the Princess, who had disco-
red to him Alcanders Passion, to
vour it at all, and threatned her,
at if he perceived she did, he
ould ruin her Reputation in the
orld.

These threatnings, instead of plea-
ng the Princess of Monaco, made
er think of casting off the Tyran-
y, which he would exercise over
r, and at the same time taking
ch measures with the Great Al-
nder, as she never did before,
e made him resolve to send Mon-
eur de Lausun to the Wars, where
e had a considerable Command.
Having told Monsieur de Lausun,
hat he should prepare himself to
epart within two or three days,
Monsieur de Lausun remained alto-
ether surprized at these so unex-
pected News, and immediately
uessing at the cause, he told Al-
nder the Great, that he would

not go to the Army, at leaſt
leſs he would give him the Co
mand of it; however, that he
well enough, why he ſent him
ther; that it was to enjoy his
ſtreſs the more peaceably, dur
his abſence; but that it ſhould
be ſaid, that they had ſo groſly
ceived him, at leaſt without
ſhewing, that he was ſenſible
their deceit; that this was the
ction rather of a perfidious Ma
than of a great Prince, ſuch as
had always eſteemed him, and th
he was glad it had ſerved to di
buſe him.

Although the Great *Alcand*
had been always accuſtomed
ſpeak like a Maſter, and that
Man had until that time dared
make him any reproaches; yet h
failed not to give Monſieur *de La*
ſon a hearing untill the end; bu
ſeeing that his folly ſtill encreaſe
more and more, he coldly asked him
if he was mad, and if he well re
membred

membred that he ſpoke to his Ma-
ſter, and to him, who could caſt him
down, in as little time as he had
raiſed him. *Monſieur* de Lauſun
anſwered him, *That he knew that as*
well as he; that he very well knew,
that it was to him alone he was in-
debted for his Fortune, having ne-
ver made his Court to any Miniſter,
like the other Great men of the
Realm; but all that ſhould not hinder
him to tell the Truth, and continu-
ing in the ſame tone that he had
begun, he was yet about to ſay ſe-
veral ridiculous and extravagant
things, when *Alcander* prevented
him, by telling him, that he gave
him only four and twenty hours
to reſolve upon his departing; and
that if he did not obey him, he
would conſider what he had to
do.

Having left him after theſe few
words, Monſieur *de Lauſun* began
to be in an unconceivable deſpaire,
and attributing all this accident

to the Correſpondence, which th
Princeſs of *Monaco* began to hav
with *Alcander* the Great, he wen
to her Lodgings, where not find
ing her, he broke a large Look
ing Glaſs, as though he had re
venged himſelf ſufficiently by tha
The Princeſs of *Monaco* complain
ed of him to *Alcander*, who re
plyed, That he was a Fool, on whom
ſhe was likely to have revenge e
nough by his abſence, that he him
ſelf had ſuffered ſurprizing things
but that he pardoned him all
conſidering that he might well b
in deſpaire, for loſing a Ladies Fa
vour, whoſe merit was ſo grea
as hers.

When the four and twenty hour
were expired, he demanded of Mon
ſieur *de Lauſun*, what he was re
ſolved to do, who anſwering, tha
he was reſolved not to depart, un
leſs he gave him the Command
of the Army, the Great *Alcander*
was moved with anger againſt him
and

nd again threatned to reduce him to ſuch a condition, as he ſhould ave cauſe to repent of having rovoked him ſo far; but *Monſieur e Lauſun*, not becoming more diſcreet for all theſe Menaces, repli-d, *That all the miſchief he could him, was to take from him the ffice of General of the Dragoons, hich he had given him, and that e having foreſeen that, had brought is Commiſſion with him in his Po-ket; and at the ſame time taking t out, he threw it upon a Table, neer hich the King was ſeated, which did ſo exaſperate the Great* Alcan-der, *that he ſent him that very hour to the Baſtile.* This did very much amaze all the World, no Man yet know-ing what could have drawn the diſgrace upon this Favourite.

Madam *de Monteſpan*, having heard of his Misfortune, was over-joyed at the delay ſhe had uſed in her Intrigue, and was with no great difficulty comforted, believing, that

after

after his indiſcretion, which beg
to be the publick diſcourſe of t
World, there was no more retur
ing for him into *Alcander's* favour
However his diſgrace did not co
tinue ſo long as was imagined; f
the Great *Alcander*, having
found in the Princeſs of *Mon*
Charmes powerful enough to ret
him, had no ſooner ſatisfied his Fa
cy, but he pardoned *Monſieur*
Lauſun, who returned to Court wi
more Credit than ever: Yet eve
body was ſufficiently aſtoniſhed
it, becauſe it was not thought, th
Alcander was of an humour eve
to forget that want of reſpect, whi
Monſieur de Lauſun did ſhew him.

Monſieur de Lauſun's returne t
Court, having made all the Worl
conceive, that he muſt needs have
a great Aſcendent over *Alcander*
Spirit, all men were very induſtri
ous to give him ſome markes o
their inclination to his Service, an
among others, Madam *de Monte*

pas

n, who no longer could deny
m the last Favours. This new
trigue, that ought to have com-
rted *Monsieur de Lausun* for the
incess of *Monaco*'s Infidelity, did
t hinder him from meditating
n some revenge, whereof he in a
w days after found an opportu-
ity. This Lady with many o-
hers was sitting upon a green turfe,
nd laying her Hand upon the
rass, he trod upon it as it were
nwittingly, and having made a
ind of turne on purpose to wring
the harder, he addressed himself
o her to demand Pardon.

The pain, which the Princess of
Monaco felt, made her squeak out,
ut she was less sensible of that, than
f a mocking Laughter, which
Monsieur de Lausun affected in ex-
using himself, she gave him a thou-
and injurious Terms, and made all
hose who were present compre-
end, that she could not be so pas-
ionate against him, without ha-

ving

ving ſome other reaſon for it. Mon
ſieur *de Lauſun*, who was concern
to preſerve his Reputation amon
the Ladies, ſuffered the Princeſs o
Monaco's reſentment to evapor
in reproaches, without deſiring
anſwer them otherwiſe, than b
ſubmiſſions and excuſes. And th
Ladies who were preſent, havin
taken upon themſelves to recon
cile them, ſhe was obliged to b
quiet; for fear of diſcovering t
them, that her vexation proceede
from another cauſe.

The Princeſs of *Monaco* havin
thus loſt her Lover, and having b
taſted, if I may ſo ſay, of the Gre
Alcander, ſought to comfort he
ſelf for it, by the Conqueſt of ſom
other, but her Temper being no
ſevere, nor her Appetite content
with one Man alone, ſhe tryed
many Chances, that at length ſh
fell under them. She having like
a Page who was a proper h andſom
Fellow, but one that run over a

Pari

ris, after the manner of Pages, had a mind to know, whether ſhe ould find him a better Man, than oſe Perſons of Quality, of whom ly ſhe had until that time made yal: But he having a Diſtemper oon him, infected the Princeſs of *Monaco* with it, who did not put r ſelf under Cure for it, as ſoon ſhe ought, perhaps becauſe ſhe id not at firſt know what it was, elſe out of ſhame and trouble to iſcover it. Therefore when ſhe en-ed into a courſe of Phyſick, ſhe ied under it, giving by her Death range apprehenſions to thoſe, who ad imitated her in her Pleaſures.

The Princeſs of *Monaco*'s Rela-ions did very carefully conceal the ature of her Diſtemper; but *Mon-ſieur*, the Great *Alcanders* Brother, who had had ſome familiarity with er, tho' of no long continuance, nd who in recompence of ſome Services rendred him, and the Che-valier *de Lorraine*, had given her

the

the charge of Houskeeper to
Wife, was afraid of being in
ved in her Misfortune, and c
not be at reſt, until he had aſſe
bled four Perſons, who were
moſt skilful in that kind of
ſtemper, to know whether he
not in danger of it; they aſſu
him, that he was not, which
wholy reſtore him to his Spirits,
made him ſoon forget the Prin
of *Monaco*.

The Great *Alcander* ſuſpected
Intrigue of Madam *de Monteſp*
and of Monſieur *de Lauſun*, a
whereas Love enters by ſeve
ways into the Hearts of Men,
reflection which he made upon
Favorites good Fortune, made hi
conſider more narrowly, than
had done till that time, the Me
and Beauty of Madam *de Monte*
pan. Beſides, the Poſſeſſion of M
dam *de la Valliere*, began to bre
in him ſome diſtaſte, the inſepar
ble miſchief of long enjoyment

Now

ow whereas Madam *de Monte-*
had a very particular atten-
n upon *Alcanders* Perſon, ſhe
n perceived by his Words and
tions, that he was not unſenſi-
e of her Charmes, and whereas
e knew, that preſence was the
ſt neceſſary thing in the World,
foment Amorous Sentiments,
endeavoured all ſhe could to e-
bliſh her ſelf at Court, which
believed might be eaſily done,
ſhe once entred into a confidence
th Madam *de la Valliere*, who for
r part ſought to diſcharge her
f upon ſome good Friend, of the
pleaſure, which ſhe conceived
the lukewarmneſs of the Great
lcander's Flames. Madam *de Val-*
re did very well approve of the
dvances which Madam *de Mon-*
pan made her, and there imme-
ately was a kind of friendſhip knit
tween theſe two Ladies, or at
leaſt ſome appearance of a friend-
p; for I very well know, that

Madam

Madam *de Monteſpan*, who had h
end, was far from loving Mada
de la Valliere, who was the on
obſtacle of her deſignes. The Gr
Alcander who did already reſe
ſome tenderneſs for the other, w
overjoyed to ſee her every d
with Madam *de la Valliere*, who
Madam *de Monteſpan* did likewi
Charm, becauſe ſhe induſtriou
embraced all her Intereſts, and h
an admirable Complaiſance for h
blaming the Great *Alcander* for h
indifference, and furniſhing her wi
means to make him return.

In the mean time, the Great *A*
cander went oftner to Madam *de*
Valliere's Lodgings than he w
accuſtomed to do, that he mig
have the pleaſure of ſeeing M
dam *de Monteſpan*, and Mada
de la Valliere applying to her ſe
theſe new Aſſiduities, loved Mad
de Monteſpan the better, believi
that it was by her Cares ſhe e
joyed his ſight the oftener. B

laſt, ſhe having once had a part
the true Affections of his Heart,
n perceived that every thing
ich the Great *Alcander* did then
unto her, was counterfeit, and
Paſſion for him ſerving her in-
ad of Wit, whereof ſhe had no
eat ſhare by Nature, ſhe appre-
nded, that Madam *de Monteſpan*
ceived her, and that *Alcander*
s more intimate with her than
had hitherto imagined.

As ſoon as this ſuſpicion had ſeiz-
her mind, ſhe obſerved them
narrowly, that ſhe no longer
ubted that they deceived her,
d her Paſſion not permitting her
keep the ſecret any longer, ſhe
nderly complained of it to Great
lcander, who told her, that he
as too generous to abuſe her any
rther, that it was true, he did
ve Madam *de Monteſpan*, but yet
at it ſhould not hinder him from
ving her, as he ought, that ſhe
uſt be contented with what he

ſhould

ſhould do for her, without de
ing more, becauſe he did not lo
to be conſtrained.

This anſwer more like a M
ſters than a Lovers, was far fro
ſatisfying ſo nice a Miſtreſs, as M
dam *de la Valliere*, ſhe wept,
lamented, but all that did not
ten the Great *Alcander*; he once
gain told her, that if ſhe deſired
continuance of his Love, ſhe ſhou
exact nothing from him beyond h
will; he prayed her to live wi
Madam *de Monteſpan*, as ſhe h
done before, and aſſured her, th
if ſhe ſhew'd the leaſt unkindneſs
that Lady, ſhe would oblige hi
to take other meaſures.

The Great *Alcanders* Will was
Law to Madam *de la Valliere*: S
lived with Madam *de Monteſp*
in an Union, that could not
reaſonably expected from a Riv
and ſhe ſurprized all the Wor
by her Conduct; becauſe all t
World began to be perſuaded th

Great *Alcander* did by little
l little forsake her, and gave
nself up entirely to Madam *de*
ntespan.

In the mean time, the Great *Al-*
der being a nice Lover, and not
le to endure that a Husband
ould share with him in the Fa-
urs of Madam *de Montespan*, he
olved to remove him out of the
ay, upon pretence of giving him
me great Employments, but *Mon-*
ur de Montespan was of no Com-
lfant humour, he refused all that
ey offered him, doubting indeed,
at his Wives Merit did contri-
te more to his advancement,
an any thing he could have re-
mmendable in himself.

Madam *de Montespan*, who had
ken delight in the Kings Em-
aces, could no longer endure those
her Husbands, neither would
e grant him any more; which
ot Monsieur *de Montespan* into such
despaire, that although he ten-

derly

derly loved her, he did not refr
from giving her a good box
the Ear. Madam *de Monte*
who well knew where to find
ſupport, gave him extream
Language, and having complai
of his proceeding to the Great
cander; he baniſhed Monſieur
Monteſpan the Court, who w
his Children departed into his o
Country, bordering upon the
reneans: There went into c
Mourning, as if he had loſt
Wife indeed. And he being mu
indebted, the Great *Alcander*
him two hundred thouſand Liv
to comfort him for the loſs wh
he had been the occaſion of.

However, ſome time after M
ſieur *de Monteſpan*'s departure, M
dam *de Monteſpan* became w
Child, and although ſhe might w
imagine that all the World kn
what paſt between the Great
ſander and her ſelf; yet ſhe be
aſhamed to be ſeen in that co

on, invented a new Mode, which as very advantageous for Wo-en who would hide their great ellies; it was a ſhort Waſtcoat ke a Mans, reaching only to the Waſte, where pulling out ſome part f the Shift, they made it ſit in as rge Puffs as they could upon the etticoat, and ſo hid the Belly.

All this did not hinder the Great *Alcander*'s Court, from perceiving learly how matters went; but whereas the Courtiers did almoſt dore that Prince, their incenſe eached even his Miſtreſs, whoſe avour every one began to Court; nd ſhe having an infinite deal of Wit, made as many Friends as ſhe ould, which Madam *de la Valli-re* had never done, who to ſhew he Great *Alcander*, that it was himſelf only that ſhe loved, never would ask any thing for another. Therefore her Rivals Credit was no ſooner perceived, but every one with pleaſure left her, whereof one

day

day complaining, the *Mareschall Grammont* made her answer, th she should have taken care to h made others Rejoyce with her, wh she her self had cause to Rejoy if when she should have cause Mourn, she desired that oth should Mourn also.

Madam *de Vallière* seeing h self thus abandoned by all t World, resolved to go into a Co vent, and having chose that of t *Carmelites*, she retired thither, a in a little time after took the bit, where she lives, as 'tis said great Sanctity; which I easily b lieve, for that having tryed, as had done, the inconstancy of worl Affairs, she plainly saw, that it in God alone, in whom she ou to trust.

Her retreat did equally sati the Great *Alcander*, and Mad *de Montespan*, the last, because was in a continual apprehens left Madam *de la Vallière* mig

ag

ain return into the Great *Al-*
nders Favour, whoſe moſt ten-
r Affections ſhe had once poſ-
ſed; and the other, becauſe her
ſence ſtill upbraided him of
Inconſtancy. In the mean
ile, the time of Madam *de Mon-*
an's lying in approaching, the
eat *Alcander* retired to *Paris*,
ither he went but ſeldom, ho-
g that ſhe might be more ſe-
ly brought to bed there, than
St. *Germains*, where he uſually
ded.

The time being come, a Woman
Madam *de Monteſpan's* Bed-
amber, in whom the Great *Al-*
der and her ſelf had a particu-
confidence, took Coach, and
nt into St. *Anthonies Street* to
nſieur *Clements*, the Renowned
Midwife, whom ſhe asked if
would go along with her, to
er a Lady, who was in La-
, but at the ſame time ſhe
him, that if he would go, he

 muſt

muſt be Hood-wink't, becauſe
was deſired, that he ſhould
know, whither he went.
Clement, to whom the like
dents had often arrived, ſe
that ſhe, who came to fetch h
had a gentle Aire, and that
Adventure preſaged nothing,
what was good, he told the W
man, that he was ready to do
that ſhe deſired, and ſuffring h
ſelf to be muſled, he took Co
along with her, out of which,
ter ſeveral turns about the To
he alighted, and was led into
very ſtately Appartment, wh
his muſler was taken off.

However he had no time gi
him to conſider the place where
was, and he had no ſooner re
vered his ſight, but a Girl, w
was in the Chamber, put out
Lights; after which, the Great
cander, who was hid behind
Curtain of Madam *de Monte/p*
Bed, ſpoke to him, in order to
aſſu

ure him, in case he were afraid, d bid him fear nothing. Mon- ur *Clement* answered him, that was not afraid, and having ap- oached his Patient, he felt her, d finding that the Child was not t ready to come into the World, asked *Alcander*, who was near m, whether the place where they re, was the House of God, where was permitted neither to Eat, Drink, that for his part, he as very Hungry, and that they ould do him a great kindness to ve him something to Eat.

The Great *Alcander*, without aying for either of the Women, ho were in the Chamber, be- red himself to serve him, he ent immediately into a Closet, om whence he took a Pot of weat Meats, and brought it to m, then from the other side, he ch'd some Bread, which he like- ise gave him, and bid him not spare either the one, or the o-

ther; for there was more yet
the Lodgings. After Monſieur C
ment had eaten two or three M
ſels, he asked whether they wo
not give him any thing to Dri
the Great *Alcander* ran himſelf
to the Cloſet, to fetch him a B
tle of Wine, and filled him two
three Glaſſes, one after anothe
When Monſieur *Clement* had dr
the firſt Glaſs, he asked *Alcand*
if he alſo would not drink, a
the Great *Alcander* having anſwe
ed, no, he told him, that the fa
Lady would not have ſo happy a
ſpeedy a deliverance, unleſs h
drank a Glaſs to her Health.

The Great *Alcander* did n
think it proper, to reply to h
diſcourſe, and a pang, which
that time took Madam *de Mo*
teſpan, interrupted the Converſa
tion; in the mean time, ſhe he
Alcander by the hand, who e
couraged her to take heart, an
asked *Clement* every moment,

e buſineſs would not be ſoon done.
er Labour was hard enough,
ough it was not very long, and
adam *de Monteſpan* was brought
bed of a brave Boy, at which
e Great *Alcander* expreſſed a great
l of ſatisfaction, but he would
t have it preſently told Madam
Monteſpan for fear it might be
tful to her Health.

Monſieur *Clement* having done
ery thing that belonged to his
ofeſſion, the Great *Alcander* fil-
him himſelf a Glaſs of Wine,
er which he teturned behind
e Bed Curtain, becauſe they were
light a Candle, to the end that
nſieur *Clement* might ſee, if all
ngs were well, before his de-
ture. *Clement* having aſſured
m, that the Lady in the Straw
s out of all danger, ſhe, who
nt to fetch him, gave him a
ſe wherein there were an hun-
d Lewidores, and being again
od-wink't, they lead him to a

Coach, which carried him ho
to his own Houſe, after havi
made many more turns than it h
done in coming.

In the mean time Monſieur
Lauſun did endeavour to comf
himſelf in ſome others Arms, and
ing very proud that the Great *Al*
der had only his leavings; he
not at all envy his good Fortu
either becauſe he had never had
reall Paſſion for Madam *de Mont*
pan, or for that he had found
in her ſome ſecret imperfectio
which her Husband himſelf
attribute unto her. However
did not omit to make uſe of h
Favour in thoſe things, which
would not ask himſelf, and M
dam *de Monteſpan*, who had
ven him ſo great advantages ov
her, durſt deny him nothing, f
fear that he ſhould ruin her wi
the Great *Alcander*, with whom
had no leſs power than her ſelf.
the mean time, as we ſeldom ha
an

great kindneſs for thoſe whom
ſtand in awe of, ſo ſhe would
any rate have rid her ſelf of
n, but ſhe durſt not yet attempt
for fear of not being powerful
ough to bring it about. While
was in theſe Sentiments, the
ce of a Lady of Honour, to the
eat *Alcander*'s Queen became
ide, by the Dutcheſs of *Mon-*
zier's Death, and the Dutcheſs
Richlieu, and of *Crequi*, preten-
g both to it, each made uſe of
Friends for the obtaining it.
adam *de Monteſpan* declared her
f for the Dutcheſs of *Richlieu*, and
onſieur *de Lauſun* for the Dutcheſs
Crequi, which began to ſow an
en Diviſion betwixt them. For
onſieur *de Lauſun* would by all
eans force Madam *de Monteſpan*
deſiſt from ſpeaking, in the be-
lf of the Dutcheſs of *Richlieu*,
d Madam *de Monteſpan*, who
uld not honourably give over,
er having gone ſo far, thought

it ſtrange that Monſieur *de Lauſun* when he knew that ſhe had undertaken that Affair, ſhould come in her way, to take the Intereſt of the Dutcheſs of *Crequi*. It was the Great *Alcanders* part to decide in favour, either of his Miſtreſs or of his Favourite; but the Prince being unwilling to diſcontent either of them, ſtaid a long while without diſpoſing of that place, hoping that they would agree together, and that their reunion would give him an opportunity to reſolve. But on the contrary, his delay, making as well the one as the other believe, that the Great *Alcander* had no regard to their Prayers, they bore againſt each other a greater grudge than they did before, and even Monſieur *de Lauſun* began to talk diſadvantageouſly of Madam *de Monteſpan*, which ſhe could not hear of without deſiring to be notably revenged.

Ma-

Madam *de Monteſpan* complain-
of it to the Great *Alcander*,
ho gave Monſieur *de Lauſun* a
vere reprimand. But he ſo much
e more enraged againſt her, as
ſaw that her Credit prevailed
ove his, for the Great *Alcander*
d juſt then, given the Dutcheſs
Montanziers place to the Du-
heſs of *Richlieu*, could not for
ar to take the liberty of railing
ainſt her upon all occaſions. The
eat *Alcander* being informed of
by others, beſides Madam *de*
nteſpan, did again ſharply re-
ehend Monſieur *de Lauſun*, who
ceiving that the Great *Alcan-*
r underſtood no rallery upon
at point, promiſed him to be more
creet for the future and to let
m ſee, that he deſigned to live
endlily thereafter with Madam
Monteſpan, he deſired him to
oncile them, which the Great
ander promiſed him to do.
In effect having diſpoſed Ma-

dam *de Monteſpan*'s Spirit to p
don him, he made them on t
morrow embrace in his Preſen
obliging Monſieur *de Lauſun*
ask her Pardon for what he h
done, and to promiſe her not
do ſo any more.

This reconcilement being mad
Monſieur *de Lauſun* had mo
power than ever, upon the Gr
Alexanders Spirit, and whereas th
Favourite's Ambition was beyo
all meaſure, which nothing cou
ſatisfie, he gave way to ſome thoughts
of Marrying the Princeſs M
damoiſelle *d'Orleans Monpenſier*, th
Great *Alexanders* Couſin *Germa*
which his Siſter, that Princeſs's Con
dent, had long ago put into his hea

The Princeſs was already of
Age well advanced, but ſhe b
ing extraordinarily Rich, and Mon
ſieur *de Lauſun* eſteeming that Qu
lity, and the Blood from which ſh
was deſcended, more than all othe
Ornaments of Face and Body, h
deſire

esired his Sister to continue her
Cares for him, and in the prospect
f arriving unto so great a Match,
e made very close Court to Ma-
am *de Montespan*, not doubting
ut that her Credit, might be very
seful to him upon that occasion.
Although the Interest that Mon-
ieur *de Lausun* had in the Great
Alcanders Heart, made him pre-
ume very much upon his Favour,
nevertheless he believing, that the
King would never give his Con-
ent willingly to that Alliance, de-
ired to engage him to it out of
nterest. To this effect, he dis-
patched a Gentleman, in whom he
had a great deal of confidence, to
the Duke of *Lorrain*, who was de-
prived of his Country, to offer him
a Settlement of five hundred thou-
sand Livres of yearly Rent out of
Lands, to him, and to his Heirs,
upon Condition, that he would
resigne his Rights to him. The
Duke of *Lorrain*, who saw no great

appear-

appearance of being ever able t
recover his own Eſtate, reliſh
that propoſal, and Monſieur *de La*
ſun, ſeeing it likely to ſucceed, ex
preſſed ſomething of it to the Gre
Alcander, to whom he inſinuated
that it would be very advantage
ous for him, that the Duke of *Lo*
rain gave up his Pretenſions t
ſome one, who would render him
Faith and Homage for the Duke
dom of *Lorrain*.

The Great *Alcander* having ap
proved of the thing, Monſieur d
Lauſun diſcovered to him, that wit
the deſign of doing him this Ser
vice, he had harkened to ſome pro
poſals of Marriage, which had been
made to him in the part of the
Princeſs, Madamoiſelle *d'Orleans*
Monpenſier, by the mediation of
his Siſter. He asked his Pardon
for giving him no earlier notice
of it; which he believed he ought
not to have done, until he had firſt
endeavoured to diſpoſe of matters
ſo,

as to take effect. Saying fur-
er, that it was his part to ap-
rove of this Match, which, though
appeared to be very extraordi-
ry, was not however without
xample: That it was not the first
me, that Mortals were allied to
e Blood of the Gods, and that
istory taught him, that many
en, who were of no better Fa-
ily than himself, had arrived to
at Honour.

The Great *Alcander* was fur-
ized at this proposal, which ap-
eared very bold for a Man of
onsieur *de Lausun*'s Rank, yet con-
dering that this was not the first
me, that a Princess of the Blood
oyal had Married a private Gen-
man, and reflecting upon the
dvantages, which he himself might
ap from this Alliance, he soon
ustomed himself to hearken to it.
adam *de Montespan*, whom Mon-
ur *de Lausun* had engaged to his
erests, finding the Great *Alcan-*
der

der already well inclined, did
dextrouſly repreſent to him,
little difference that there was
France, between Gentlemen, wh
they were once become Duk
(which he might eaſily cre
Monſieur *de Lauſun*) and ſtra
Princes (to one of which he h
not long ago given a Siſter of M
damoiſelle *d'Orleans Monpenſier*
that he finally reſolved in favo
of the Match.

When the Great *Alcander* h
thus ſignified his approbation
it to Madam *de Monteſpan*, he to
ſome meaſures with her and wi
Monſieur *de Lauſun*, in order
clear himſelf to the World fr
all the blame, for his aſſenting
this Marriage; which he did b
lieve could not be better done, th
by ſeeming to have been force
to give conſent to it. To effe
this he deſired two things,
one, that Madamoiſelle *d'O*
leans Monpenſier ſhould come h
ſe

lf, to intreat him to give her
onſieur *de Lauſun* in Marriage,
e other, that the moſt conſidera-
le of Monſieur *de Lauſun*'s Rela-
ons, ſhould come in a Body to
ſire permiſſion for their Kinſman
marry that Princeſs. They ſaw
en theſe Ambaſſadours, and this
mbaſſadreſs arrive all at a time,
d thoſe having firſt obtained Au-
ence, they told the Great *Alcan-*
r, that although the favour which
ey were to deſire from him in
half of their Kinſman, ſhould
em above their merit, and even
ir hopes, nevertheleſs they in-
ated him to conſider, that it
ould be a means to induce the Gen-
y to greater matters, each one hop-
g for the future, to be able to attain
ſo great an Honour, as a re-
mpence for his Services.

They alſo repreſented to the
reat *Alcander*, what I have a-
ve pointed at, (*viz.*) that Gen-
men have ere now obtained the

like

like Grace, ſo that the Great *Alexander*, ſeeming to be perſuaded by their Prayers, anſwered them that for their ſakes, as being the Chief Gentry of his Realm, he would be glad that their Kinſman ſhould have the honour of Eſpouſing the Princeſs, Madamoiſelle *d'Orleans Monpenſier*; but yet that he deſired to know from herſelf, whether ſhe was willingly enclined to this Alliance; of which he was as yet altogether ignorant.

Then the Princeſs entred, who without conſidering, that it was not very uſual for Women to deſire Men in Marriage, intreated the Great *Alexander* to permit her to marry Monſieur *de Lauſun*, which he at firſt denyed, but after a manner, that let her ſee, it was only for faſhion's ſake, then the Princeſs renewed her Prayers, and at length obtained what ſhe required.

The

The news of this Marriage made great deal of noiſe, not only o- the whole Realm, but even uch farther; none could forbear miring at the Effects of For- ne, that did ſo much favour ſo deſerving a Perſon; than whom, his hidden Virtues be except- there were thouſands more orthy in the Kingdom.

In the mean time, though Mon- ur *de Lauſun* had a great deal cunning, yet he committed a eat Errour upon this occaſion; inſtead of Marrying the Princeſs adamoiſelle *d'Orleans Monpenſier*, ſoon as he had obtained the Great *ander*'s conſent, he would make eat preparations for his Nuptials, that having delayed them for e days, the Prince of *Conde*, his Son, caſt himſelf at the gs Feet, to intreat him not to the concluſion of a thing ſo graceful to the Royal Family, and le the Great *Alcander* knew not

what

what to reſolve upon, being on e
ſide combated by their Reaſo
and on the other, by the Prom
which he had made to Monſ
de Lauſun's Kindred. Monſ
joyned in Petition with theſe Pr
ceſs, and made him reſolve to
tract his word. Madam *de M*
teſpan, for her part, though ſhe
penly appeared to act for Monſ
de Lauſun, yet ſhe endeavoured
derhand to break the Match, fe
ing that if he were once allyed
the Royal Family, he might ha
yet a greater influence upon
cander's Spirit, over which ſhe d
ſired to reign alone.

In the mean time the Great *A*
cander had ſo great a weakneſs t
wards Monſieur *de Lauſun*, that h
knew not how to declare his Pl
ſure to him; but there being a n
ceſſity of doing it, he cauſed hi
to come into his Cabinet, and th
told him, that after having throug
ly reflected on his Marriage,
wou

uld not have him proceed to conclusion of it; that in every ng else he would give him marks his Affection, but that he muſt nothing more to him of that, he did deſign to retain his Fa-ur.

Monſieur *de Lauſun* finding by s Language, that ſome body d rendred him ill Offices with Great *Alcander*, thought it uld be in vain for him to en-avour to prevail with him, but ing immediately to Madam *de ontespans* Lodgings, whom he ſpected, he told her every thing at rage and paſſion could dictate a tranſported Mad-man; he ld her, I ſay, that he had been to ame to confide in a Woman of r condition, ſince he ought to ve known, that ſuch as ſhe, ha-ng once forfeited their own Ho-ours, might well do the ſame by ir Lovers; that he would em-oy all the Credit he had with the

Great

Great *Alcander*, to bring him b
out of a Love, that ruined h
in the world, and of which h
did not know the unworthines

He ſaid to her many more thin
with the ſame violence; after whi
he went to Madamoiſelle *d'O*
leans Monpenſier, to whom he d
clared the Great *Alcanders* pleaſu
The Princeſs had no ſooner hea
this news, but ſhe fell into a Tranc
and all the Water in the *Sein*
would not have been enough t
recover her out of it; if Mon
ſieur *de Lauſun* had not put hi
Face to hers, to tell her in he
ear, that it was not time to be thu
deſperate, but rather to take ſuc
meaſures as might defend them
both from the hatred of their En
mies, and ſecure their Pleaſure
that to effect this, they muſt u
extream diligence, for the loſs o
one only moment drew after i
ſtrange Conſequences; that as fo
himſelf, he was of opinion, tha
with-

ithout taking any notice of the
eat *Alcander*'s Orders, they ſhould
privately Married; that when the
ing were once done, he would
well enough pleaſed with it;
ce he had already conſented to
But that whatever happened,
thing ſhould hinder their conſtant
elligence and communication.
The Princeſs recovered out of
Trance, at ſo eloquent and ſo
reeable a diſcourſe, and being
h ſhut up together in a Cloſet,
ey called to them the Counteſs
Nogent for a third, who con-
med them, that they could not
e a reſolution more advanta-
ous to their happineſs, and con-
nt. However it was reſolved in
Counſel, that ſhe ſhould go
ight to find out the Great *Al-*
der, to try if ſhe could not
ke him change his Sentiment;
indeed ſhe took Coach that
y moment, for that purpoſe.
The Great *Alcander* being ad-
iled, that ſhe deſired to ſpeak
with

with him in private, eaſily gue
at her buſineſs, and although
was reſolved not to grant her
queſt, yet ſince he could not h
ſomely diſpence with himſelf
giving her Audience, he made
enter his Cloſet, having firſt co
manded all thoſe, that were
him there, to depart. The Pr
ceſs threw her ſelf at his Feet,
covering her Face with her Ha
kerchief, not ſo much to wipe
way her Tears, as to hide her co
fuſion: She ſaid to him, *That
there acted a part, that ought
confound her with ſhame, if he h
ſelf had not given her confide
in approving of, as he had d
Monſieur* de Lauſun's *intention
that it was thereupon that ſhe
taken ſome engagements, which w
not eaſie for her to break; that
though it was not over decent,
a perſon of her Sex, to talk
that manner. Yet the Merit
Monſieur* de Lauſun, *to whom e*

himself could not refuse his Af-
tions, might well serve her for
excuse, and in fine, that whoſo-
er would consider that her flames
re once authorized, and approved
her King, would not possibly find
ſo much in fault, as they might
ned imagine.

The Great *Alcander*, who had
veral times commanded her to
e, without being obeyed, told
r, when he ſaw that ſhe had gi-
n over ſpeaking, that unleſs ſhe
uld put her ſelf into another
ſture, he had no anſwer to make
t, then the Princeſs roſe up,
pecting with an unconceivable
r, the Sentence either of her Life
Death. But the Great *Alcander*
not leave her long in uncer-
nty, telling her, *That the remorſe*
ich he felt, for conſenting to her
rriage with Monſieur de Lauſun,
ſufficiently puniſh him for that
ſeneſs, that it was a thing that
ſhould repent of during his whole
life,

life, and that he could not imag
how she, who had always shown
courage above her Sex, could re
upon an action, that would re
her for ever infamous.

Madamoiselle *d'Orleans M*
pensier, having received this
swer, returned home with rage
her Heart, against the Great
cander, and having found M
sieur *de Lausun*, who waited w
impatience for the news of wh
she had done, they agreed to
ther, that seeing nothing was
to move him, they must be
cretly Married. A Priest was so
found for that purpose, and th
were Married in the Princess's C
set; but they expected from ti
and fortune some favourable
portunity of divulging the M
riage.

In the mean time the Weddi
could not be consummated so
cretly, but that the Great *Alcan*
had notice of it from one of t

Princes

ncess's Domesticks, whom Mon-
ur *de Louvoy*, an Enemy to Mon-
ur *de Lauſun*, had gained to
vertiſe him of every thing that
uld paſs in her Family. The
eat *Alcander* expreſſed very much
ger at it. Monſieur *de Louvoy*,
d Madam *de Monteſpan*, who
d intelligence together for the
truction of Monſieur *de Lau-*
, did endeavour to enflame it
the more. For Monſieur *de*
ſun had ill uſed Monſieur *de Lou-*
upon ſeveral occaſions, and
nſieur *de Louvoy* ſought to be
enged all manner of ways.
Nevertheleſs they counſelled the
eat *Alcander* to diſſemble his
entment, either becauſe they
not believe that they could yet
cure Monſieur *de Lauſun*'s ab-
ute ruin, or for that they ap-
hended to offend the Princeſs,
o did not willingly pardon thoſe
om ſhe once had reaſon to be
y with: The King did there-

fore continue in appearance to tr
Monſieur *de Lauſun*, as he
formerly, but he gave Monſi
de Louvoy Order to watch him
narrowly, as that he might g
him an account of his Conduc

In the mean time Monſieur
Lauſun, being already of a Nat
that was but too much addic
to Pride, did after his late We
ding grow every day prouder a
prouder, ſo that almoſt all t
Court were become his Enemi
However he underwent all th
with an extraordinary haughtine
but there ſoon fell out an accide
that did occaſion his diſgra
which was long ago deſigned.

The Count *de Guiche*, Eldeſt S
to the *Mareſchal de Granmont*, w
a Colonel of a Regiment of t
Great *Alcanders* Guards, and w
baniſhed by the Great *Alcand*
for ſome deſignes, much reſembli
Monſieur *de Lauſun*'s, that is
ſay, for having preſumed to lo

Monſieu

Monſieur's Wife. At length in
onſideration of the *Mareſchal*, for
hom *Alcander* had a great kind-
eſs, he permitted his Son to re-
urn. Nevertheleſs upon condi-
ion, that he ſhould quit his Of-
ice. Now the Count *de Guiche*'s
Office, being without contradiction
ne of the faireſt, and moſt con-
derable in all the Great *Alcan-*
ers's Court, all thoſe who had a-
y Credit with him, pretended to
; and amongſt the reſt, Mon-
eur *de Lanſun*, whom the Great
lcander had not long ſince made
Captain of his Guardes; yet he
urſt not demand it himſelf, ei-
her for that he perceived, that he
id begin to decline in his favour,
r becauſe he would not every
oment importune him for freſh
Graces.

He had made his peace in appea-
nce with Madam *de Monteſpan*,
who to make him fall the more
eadily into the Net, had ſeemed

to pardon him. Monſieur *de Lauſun* believing therefore, that ſhe would not deny him her mediation, for the obtaining of that Office, did pray her, that ſhe would be pleaſed to ſerve him therein; but deſired her not to tell the Great *Alcander*, that he had made her that requeſt. Madam *de Montespan*, did promiſe him to do it; but going immediately to find out the Great *Alcander*, ſhe told him that Monſieur *de Lauſun* was now become altogether a Myſtery, that he had made her promiſe him to demand the Count *de Guiche's* Office for him; but that at the ſame time, he had exacted from her not to diſcover, that he had deſired it; that ſhe could not imagine why he practiſed all theſe ſlights with a Prince, who had heaped upon him ſo many Favours, and ſtill continued to heap upon him more and more every day; that admit there were no reaſon to believe

eve, that he might have ill de-
gnes in demanding that Office;
et ſhe would not grant it him,
ſhe were in his place, ſince all
is goodneſs towards him deſerved
leaſt, in acknowlegment, a de-
monſtration of more freedom.

Although Monſieur *de Lauſun*'s
oceedings had nothing in the
ottom, yet ſince Madam *de Mon-
eſpan* gave it the blackeſt Colours
at ſhe could, the Great *Alcander*
eflected upon it, and telling Ma-
am *de Monteſpan*, that he could
ot comprehend what deſigne Mon-
eur *de Lauſun* might have, Ma-
am *de Monteſpan* adviſed him to
iſcourſe himſelf with him about
, to ſee if he would ſtill continue
is flights. The Great *Alcander*
id approve of this advice, and be-
g ſhut up with Monſieur *de Lau-
n* in his Cloſet, after having en-
ertained him with a diſcourſe of
everal matters, he began to talk
f thoſe, who aſpired to the Count

de Guiche's Office; telling him, th
he had no intention to gratifie
ny of thoſe People, whom he d
not think ſufficiently experience
to ſupply ſo conſiderable a charg

Monſieur *de Lauſun* overjoyed
find the Great *Alcander* of th
opinion, endeavoured to confir
him in it, by adding to what h
had ſaid of theſe Perſons, ſomethin
to their diſadvantage. But Mo
ſieur *de Lauſun* not coming of him
ſelf, to what the Great *Alcand*
would have had him, that is t
ſay, to beg that Office for himſel
The Great *Alcander* asked him,
it would not fit him, and if h
had no deſire to have it. Mo
ſieur *de Lauſun* replied, that aft
having received ſo many Favou
from his Majeſty, he had no min
to pretend to any new, ſo th
he durſt aſſure him, that he nev
had the leaſt thought of it. Th
Great *Alcander* told him that h
had however believed it, becau

Mada

adam *de Monteſpan* had ſpoke
him about it in his behalfe,
hich he did not believe ſhe would
ve done, unleſs he had deſired
of her; that he could not con-
ive, why he made a Myſtery of
thing, to which he might pre-
nd as well as ſo many others,
d deſired him to tell him the
th of it. Monſieur *de Lauſun*
eing himſelf preſt in that man-
r by the Great *Alcander*, ſwore
him again, that he had never
ought of it; Whereupon the
eat *Alcander*, with a meen able
make Monſieur *de Lauſun* trem-
e, told him, that he was exteam-
amazed at the boldneſs which
had to lye to him ſo impudent-
, that he needed not to diſguiſe
imſelf any longer, ſince Madam
Monteſpan had told him all;
nd that he might aſſure himſelf,
at he would never give the leaſt
edit to any thing that he might
y hereafter; at the ſame time

the Great *Alcander* rose up, a
having dismist him without hear
ning to his excuses, Monsieur
Lausun departed full of despai
and rage.

At his going out of the Gre
Alcander's Closet, he met the Du
of *Crequi*, who seeing him qu
altered, asked him what was t
matter, to which Monsieur *de La*
sun replied, that he was a wretch
who had the Rope about his Neck
and that he, who would strangl
him, should be the best of his friends

From thence he went to Ma
dam *de Montespan*'s Lodgings
where he put upon her all man
ner of affronts, and even gave he
so gross Language, as it was no
to be believed, that a Man of Qua
lity could have such in his mouth.

Madam *de Montespan* told him,
that unless she hoped the Great
Alcander would do her justice, she
her self would that very moment,
have scratched out his Eyes; but

that

that she would now remit all her revenge to the King.

After he had once more given her all the fouleſt and baſeſt Language, that deſpaire and rage could inſpire him with; he went to Madamoiſelle *d'Orleans Monſenſier's*, whom he could not careſs as he was accuſtomed, ſo much had the dejection of his Spirit contributed to the dejection of his Body. In the mean time the Princeſs being thus diſappointed, was very deſirous to know whence that proceeded, ſwearing to him, that the matter ſhould be very difficult, if ſhe endeavoured not to bring a remedy to it. Monſieur *de Lauſun* believing himſelf obliged to tell her what it was, imparted to her the converſation which he had had with the Great *Alexander*, and the Viſit which he afterwards made to Madam *de Monteſpan*, not concealing a Syllable of all the diſobliging things, that he had ſaid unto her.

The Princeſs, to whom, Ag
had given more Experience, ver
much blamed Monſieur *de Lauſu*
(who had indeed naturally a gre
deal of Wit, but very little Judg
ment) for what he had done, tellin
him that all truths were not to b
ſpoken at all times. She appr
hended the Great *Alcander*'s Re
ſentment, and fearing, that thi
conjuncture might be deſtructiv
to her Pleaſures, ſhe did what ſh
could to enjoy them ſtill for th
time, out of a fear that ſhe ſhoul
not be long permitted, to hav
them, as often as ſhe would hav
a mind to them.

In effect the Great *Alcander*, ha
ving underſtood, that Monſieur d
Lauſun, notwithſtanding his Or
ders ſo often repeated to the con
trary, had again railed at Madam
de Monteſpan, reſolved to hav
him apprehended; Monſieur d
Louvois's Remonſtrances, who di
not ceaſe to tell him, that he coul
no

not otherwiſe reduce that Spirit to reaſon, were of great uſe to confirm him in this reſolution, and to overcome all the returns of kindneſs which he had for that undeſerving Favourite. The Order for the ſeizing him was given to the Chevalier *de Fourbins*, Major of the Life-guard, who preſently conveyed himſelf to Monſieur *de Lauſun*'s Houſe, where having learn't, that he was gone to *Paris*, he left a Souldier to watch near the Gate, with order to come and give him notice, as ſoon as he ſhould be returned. Monſieur *de Lauſun* arrived about an hour or two after, and the Souldier having given the Chevalier *de Fourbins* notice of it, the Chevalier *de Fourbins* having firſt placed ſome Guards about the Houſe, entred into it, and found him near the fire, little dreaming of his misfortune. For as ſoon as he ſaw the Chevalier come towards him, he asked him, if the

Great

Great *Alexander* had ſent for him, to which the Chevalier *de Fourbins* anſwered, No, but that he had ſent him to demand his Sword, that he was ſorry to be charged with ſuch a Commiſſion, but where as he was obliged to do whatever his Maſter commanded him, he could not diſpence with himſelf from executing it.

It is eaſily to judge of Monſieur *de Lauſun*'s ſurprize, at ſo unexpected a Complement, for although he had given the Great *Alexander* cauſe to deal much more rigorouſly with him, yet ſince Men are more apt to flatter themſelves, than to do themſelves Juſtice, he believed that the kindneſs which the King had always ſhewn towards him, would prevail above his reſentment. He asked the Chevalier *de Fourbins*, whether he might not ſpeak with the King, but the Chevalier having told him that it was forbidden, he gave himſelf

over

ver to despaire. They kept as
nict a Guard upon him all that
ight, as they could have done
on the greatest Criminal in the
Vorld, and the Chevalier *de Four-*
in having on the morrow de-
vered him into the hands of Mon-
eur *d'Artagnan*, Captain Lieute-
nt of Dragoons, Monsieur *de*
auſun look'd upon himself as a
ined Man; because Monsieur *de*
rtagnan had never been his friend,
d he believed, that he was cho-
n out on purpose, to make the
eat *Alcander*'s indignation the
ter known.

Monsieur *d'Artagnan*, having
ken Orders from Monsieur *de*
uvoy by the Great *Alcanders*
ommand, conducted Monsieur *de*
auſun to *Pierre Anciſe*, and from
ence to *Pignerol*, where they
t him up in a Room with
ed Windows, not letting him
speak with any one whomsoe-
, and having only some Books

for

for his Companions, together wi
his *Valet de Chambre*, who was n
permitted to go out.

The Affliction, which he co
ceived to ſee himſelf fallen fro
ſo high a Fortune into ſo depl
rable a Condition, ſoon reduc
him to that extremity, that h
life was deſpaired of, and he bei
once fallen into a Lethargy, it w
ſo credibly believed, that he w
deceaſed, that a Courrier was d
patch'd to the Great *Alcander*,
give him notice of his Death; b
in ſix hours afterwards, there ar
ved another, who brought the Ne
of his return to life again, at whi
there was neither joy nor grief e
preſs't, I mean in general, eve
one eſteeming him already as
Man, who was dead at leaſt to t
World.

In the mean time, Madamoiſe
d'Orleans Monpenſier, being in de
paire, becauſe the pleaſures, whi
ſhe had expected to enjoy with hi
we

ere so suddenly vanish't, suffred much the more torment, in that e durst not make the least ap-ear. However the most intimate ther Friends endeavoured all they uld to lessen her Affliction; but ce they were not always with r, and especially by night, du-ng which the Senses are usually e most tormented, they rather ntributed to render her more ched by thus renewing the membrance of her misfortune, an brought her any comfort. t her greatest Misery was, that e durst not complain; for since r Marriage was secret, she truly ged that her Sorrows must be lso secret, unless she would resolve expose her self to the laugh-, not only of her Enemies, but en of all *France*; who had their es turned upon her, to see after at manner she would take her od Friends disgrace. Neverthe-s that did not hinder her from

taking

taking the Man who mana
Monſieur *de Lauſuns* buſineſs; a
making him her Steward; nor fr
receiving into her Service his G
tleman, and the moſt faithful
his Domeſticks, who were ov
joyed to ſave themſelves in th
Port, after their Maſters Shipwra

In the mean time, the Great
cander, juſt as if Monſieur *de L*
ſun had never been his Favouri
heard every thing that was ſaid
him, without being concerned
it, or even without anſwering
it; which was the reaſon that th
who were ſtill his Friends, w
were but very few in numbe
dared no longer to ſpeak in his
half. Neither did hardly any p
ſume to Petition for the Count
Guiche's Employment; for all m
knowing, that it had been a ſtu
bling block to that Favourite, th
feared, leaſt it might have the ſa
effect for others, as it had for hi
yet while they were in daily
pectatio

ectation of the Man, to whom
e Great *Alcander* would give it,
ey were all surprized, when one
orning at his rising, he told the
uke *de la Feuillade*, that if he could
rocure fifty thousand Crowns, he
ould give him the rest to pur-
ase the Count *de Guiche*'s Em-
loyment, to whom he must pay
own six hundred thousand Li-
es; before he could have his Re-
gnation. The Duke *de la Feuilla-*
smilingly answered the Great
lcander, that he should easily pro-
ure them, if he would be his se-
urity; and after having seriously
anked him for the Favour which
did him, he took leave of him
go to *Paris*, to fetch the sum,
at the Great *Alcander* demand-
d of him.

The News of what the Great *Al-*
nder had done for him, being
read amongst all the Courtiers, he
et a great number of them in the
ntichamber, and upon the Stairs,
who

who came to make him their Com
plements; but without half bei
ing them out, he returned in
the Great *Alcander*'s Chamber,
whom he ſaid, that Men need n
longer have recourſe to Saints
ſee Miracles, ſince His Majeſty di
greater than all the Saints in P
radiſe; that when he came in th
Morning he had not been regarde
by any body, becauſe none di
believe that his Majeſty would d
that which he had done for him
but that as ſoon as the favou
which he had granted him, w
known, all preſt with emulatio
one of another to make him pro
fers of their Service; but that the
were proffers of Service after th
Court Mode only, that is to ſay
that no man had offered him hi
Purſe, to take thence the fift
thouſand Crowns which he wanted

The Great *Alcander* laught a
Duke of *Feuillade*'s jeſt, and ſeein
him return in as much haſt as h
came

me, he told him that he need not
o fast, if he had nothing to
at *Paris*, but to seek the Mo-
y; that he was willing to lend
him, but upon condition, that
should pay it again, when he
re able.

Thus the Great *Alexander* having
a day ruined one Favourite, rai-
another almost in as little time;
it is apparent, that the morn-
g whereon the King made the
uke *de la Feuillade* this Present,
s Affairs were in so bad a con-
ion, that one of his Coach Hor-
s being dead, he had not money
ough by him to buy another.

Although Monsieur *de Lausuns*
sgrace had deprived the Court
adies of one of their best Com-
tants, yet since every moment
resented them with fresh Men to
nter the Lists, the vigour of those
id comfort them for the loss of
he other; and he was no sooner
ut of sight, but they forgot all
his

his Braveries. Among the you
Men, who preſented themſelves
ſupply his place, the Duke of *Lo*
gueville was without doubt t
moſt conſiderable both for Bir
and Fortune; for he was deſcen
ed from Princeſs, who had p
ſeſt the Crown, before it fell
that Branch, from whence the Gre
Alcander was ſprung, and he h
an Eſtate of ſix hundred thouſa
Livres a year, in Land, to mai
tain ſo Illuſtrious a Deſcent.
for his Perſon, his Youth was a
companied with a *Je ne ſai qu*
that rendred him very Charmin
wherefore although he was neith
of ſo good a Preſence, nor of
graceful an Air, as many othe
were, yet he failed not to plea
all the Women in general; ſo tha
he no ſooner appeared at Cour
but they all had deſignes upon hi
Perſon.

The Mareſchaleſs *de la Fer*
was one of thoſe, and thirty ſeve

thirty eight years, which had
ſt over her head, not permitting
r to hope, that he would pre-
her before ſo many others, who
ere much younger and fairer
an her ſelf, ſhe believed that it
ould not be amiſs for her to
ake him ſome advances, and that
eſe advances might ſerve her in-
ad of Merit. One day that the
uke of *Longueville*, with ſeveral
hers, was at play at her Houſe,
hich was the uſual Rendezvous of
the People of Quality, who had
thing to do, ſhe intreated him
come to ſee her, at an hour in
morning, that ſhe knew none
e would be there, at which time,
had the pleaſure of entertain-
him with all freedom; but
very little purpoſe, for the young
ince was as yet ſo raw in A-
orous Myſteries, that he did no
derſtand the meaning of an hun-
ed wanton looks, and apiſh tricks,
hich would have ſufficiently ad-

vertiſed

vertiſed any other, that had be
more experienced than himſelf.

Nevertheleſs, ſeeing that t
Mareſchaleſs, old as ſhe was, h
not diſpleaſed him, he came
gain on the morrow to ſee her
the ſame hour, and finding her
her Toilet, he told her that
would make her a Preſent of
admirable Powder; the *Mareſch*
leſs asked him what Powder it w
and the Duke of *Longueville* h
ving replied, that it was *Pol*
ville, he had hardly let the wo
fall, when ſhe cryed out, that
would diſpence with him fro
ſending for it, that it was an ab
minable Powder, and that ſhe, w
had invented it, deſerved to
burnt. She immediately asked t
Duke of *Longueville*, whether
did make uſe of it, and the Du
having anſwered, Yes; She bid hi
not come near her, for that Po
der was worſe than the Plague. T
Duke, who did not know wh

meint, desired her to explain
Riddle, and the *Mareschales*
ving enquired of him, whether
had not heard the Count *de*
r's Story, and he having repli-
, No; she told him that he must
informed of it from himself, and
er that she did believe that he
ould use no more *Polleville*.
She would not tell him any
ing more untill her head was
essed, but her dressing Woman
ing gone, she then told him, that
Count *de Saux* having had
Assignation with Madam *de*
uvres, did not come off with
nour, by reason of *Polleville*;
d that she verily believed, that
e same thing would befall him,
he were in the like Rencounter.
hat reproach made the Duke of
ngueville laugh, and whereas
e force of youth made him be-
eve, that he did not hate the *Ma-*
schales whom he had found a
ndsome Woman at her looking
Glass;

Glaſs; he told her that he had
day uſed *Polleville*, but that
would make it appear, that
ſame thing ſhould not befall h
as did happen to the Count
Saux. Whereupon he begun
careſs her, and the *Mareſcha*
ſeeming to be angry at his bo
neſs, to provoke him the mo
reſiſted him, until ſhe was ne
the Bed, upon which ſhe let h
ſelf fall, and there ſhe tryed, th
what was ſaid of the Count
Saux, was an effect of his we
neſs, and not of *Polleville*.

The Duke of *Longueville* ove
joyed at his Adventure, uſed
like a young Man, which did no
at all diſpleaſe the *Mareſchale*
She intreated him to be ſecret, an
made him underſtand, that ſhe ha
a ſevere Husband, who woul
take nothing for raillery, if he onc
had happened to diſcover, that the
had any familiarity together. Th
Duke of *Longueville* promiſed her
tha

at he would act very discreetly, and
at she should have reason to be
isfied with his Conduct, but he,
his part desired her not to
mmit any infidelity against him,
ding that he would forsake her
at very moment, wherein any
ing of that nature should arrive
his knowledge.

That Law was very severe to the
reschales, who till then had
lieved, that one Man was too
le for one Woman, but she be-
g much in love with the Duke,
d besides, having just then ex-
ienced, that he was worth two
dinary Men, she resolved to strug-
with her Nature to keep her
ord with him, as long as she
uld. Therefore from that day,
dismist the Marquis *Deffiat*,
ho endeavoured to obtain her
vour, and would certainly have
und speedy success, had it not
en for the Duke of *Longueville*'s
ohibition.

The Marquis of *Deffiat* was a little Man, wilful and brave, though he did not love the W addicted to Pleasures, and un pable of reasoning, when some f cy had once taken him in the h He found much severity in *Mareschales*'s command, w whom he was almost come to bargain, and not doubting, but t there was some other Lover in t Field, he immediately suspec the Duke of *Longueville*. His s picions being fallen upon him, though she received Visits fr many others, he was vexed to h to do with a Prince, with who he durst not fight without exp sing himself to dangerous con quences.

However, his Passion being mo strong than his Reason, he wou before he quarrelled with him, certainly informed, if he were n in a mistake, and having for th purpose sent several Spies abro

e was one day adviſed of a meet-
ng that thoſe Lovers had toge-
her; whereupon he wrapt him-
elf up in a great Cloak, and ſtood
atching before the Door, that
e might be the more certain,
hether it were true or no. When
e had ſeen with his own Eyes,
hat he had been told nothing but
uth, he reſolved to quarrel with
he Duke of *Longueville* upon the
ſt opportunity, and having met
im ſoon after, he told him in his
ar, that he deſired to ſee him
ith his Sword in hand, the Duke
f *Longueville* anſwered him with-
ut any emotion, that he ought to
arn to know himſelf, and that
e might fight with his equal, but
s for him, he had been inſtructed
ever to meddle with Fellows,
whoſe Anceſtors have not long
been known.

This was a ſenſible reproach to
the Marquis *de Daffiat*, of whoſe
traction the World had no great

Opinion; nevertheleſs ſince th
were ſeveral others in the pla
where he had ſpoken to the Du
of *Longueville*, he went from hi
without making any thing appe
and without giving any ſuſpici
of what he had ſaid unto hi
The Duke of *Longueville* depart
in a little time after, but havi
ſeveral Pages and Lacquaies in h
train, *Deffiat* believed it prope
to wait for ſome more favourab
opportunity to get ſatisfaction, bo
for the affront which was juſt th
given him, and for the ſtealing
way of his Miſtreſs from him.

In the mean time, the Duke
Longueville, ſeeing that *Deffiat* di
not follow him, took that for a
effect of his Cowardiſe, which w
only an effect of his Judgment;
that he began to ſpeak ill of hi
upon that ſcore, which being re
ported to *Deffiat*, put him into ſuc
an exceſs of anger, that he reſol
ved to be revenged, though it ſhou

ove his utter ruine. To this ef-
t he employed two or three
ies, to bring him notice when
e Duke of *Longueville* went a-
oad alone, which he often did,
ving beſides his Intrigue with
e *Mareſchaleſs*, ſome Amours in the
own, which gave him employment,
d within two or three days af-
r, one of his Spies having ad-
niſed him, that the Duke went
t all alone in a Chair, and was
one to ſome appointment, he po-
ed himſelf upon the way, and
s the Duke returned about two
ours after Midnight, he preſen-
d himſelf before him with a Cane
one hand, and a Sword in the
ther, and called to him to come
ut, or he would uſe him ſcurvi-
y; the Duke of *Longueville*, ha-
ing immediately cauſed his Chair-
men to ſtop, would have hand-
ed his Sword, but *Deſſiat* aſſault-
ng him before he had time to
raw it, gave him ſome blows with

the Cane, which the Chair me
seeing, they took the Staves out
the Chair, and would have knoc
the Marquis on the head with the
if he had not judged it proper
avoid their fury, by a speedy flig

It is easie to comprehend th
Duke's despair, after so sensib
an affront, and how much he d
sired to revenge it; he forbad th
Chair-men ever to speak of thi
accident, neither did he ever spe
of it himself to any, but to one o
his best Frends, who advised hi
to make no complaint of it, fo
altho' the Great *Alcander* woul
not fail to give the Marquis an
exemplary punishment; yet he di
not believe, that a Prince, who ha
received such an affront, ought to
revenge himself by the Ministry
of another; he told him, that he
had nothing else to do, but to cause
his Enemy to be Assassinated, which
indeed was the only method he
could take upon such an occasion,

for

r although it were not generous
commit actions of that nature;
, since to Challenge *Deffiat*
ould expose him again to be
ten, it was not juſt, and eſpe-
lly for a Prince, to receive two
fronts at the ſame time.

The Duke being reſolved, what-
r hapned, to follow this advice,
ght after nothing more than
me opportunity of accompliſh-
g it; but it was a very difficult
tter; becauſe *Deffiat* after ha-
ng committed ſuch an extrava-
ncy, never went abroad with-
t being well attended, and al-
ys ſtood upon his Guard. In
e mean time, it happened that
e *Mareſchaleſs de la Ferte* be-
me big with Child, which very
uch alarm'd her; for whereas
e did not lye with her Husband,
ho had long laine bedrid with
e Gout, ſhe well imagined, that
he once came to know it,
e would lock her up immediate-

ly for the reſt of her life. The
was therefore a neceſſity of uſi
a great deal of precaution to co
ceal her great Belly from him
but ſhe diſcovered it to the Du
of *Longueville*, who overjoyed
ſee himſelf likely to have O
ſpring, although he was as yet bu
very young himſelf, loved the *Ma*
reſchaleſs the more tenderly for i
When ſhe was four or five Month
gone, ſhe would no longer ven
ture to go into the *Mareſchal*
Chamber; but ſitting up at pla
all night, ſhe lay in Bed all day
cauſing her meat to be brough
thither to her, and never roſe, un
til the Gameſters returned, befor
whom, ſhe never ſtirred from he
Seat, for fear they ſhould diſco
ver, that which ſhe earneſtly de
ſired, ſhould be concealed from al
the World.

Although the *Mareſchal* mi
ſtruſted nothing, yet he failed not
to find fault with that manner o
living,

ing, and having ſent his Wife
rd, that he would be glad to
ak with her, ſhe ventured into
s Chamber, where he reprehend-
her for it to purpoſe ; but the
areſchaleſs, who deſired only ſome
etence not to return thither any
ore, ſeemed to be very much of-
nded at his correction ; ſo that
e diſcourſe growing hot between
em, they gave each other a great
al of ill Language, which gave
e *Mareſchaleſs* an opportunity
tell him, that he ſhould quar-
with her when ſhe came next
ſee him, and at the ſame time
uitting his Chamber, ſhe never
t her foot in it again, until after
er lying in.

When ſhe was within a Month
ſix Weeks of her time, ſhe feign-
an indiſpoſition to rid her ſelf
the Company that frequented
er, and her time being come, ſhe
y in in her own Houſe, juſt as
ſhe had been with Child by her

own Husband. It was Monſie
Clement that delivered her, a
the Duke of *Longueville* who w
preſent at her Labour, made hi
promiſe to keep it ſecret, and ga
him 200 Piſtols.

In the mean time Monſieur C
ment had many ſuch windfals, fo
in a little time after, Madam
Monteſpan being again with Chi
by the Great *Alcander*, ſhe had r
courſe to him, and he was brough
after the ſame manner, and wi
the ſame Ceremony as he had be
before; however there was ſom
difference in his reward; he ha
ving had this laſt time two hun
dred Lewidores, whereas he ha
only one hundred the firſt time
and the ſame meaſures were alway
obſerved with him, as often a
there was uſe for him; he havin
had as far as to four hundre
Lewidores, for the fourth Chil
that he delivered Madam *de Mon*
teſpan of: But whether it were tha

t appeared a little too extraordi-
ary to this Lady, who was na-
urally very saving, or that she had
ome other reasons for it, she ha-
ving again conceived by the Great
Alcander, and being obliged to go
into the Country, she sent to bar-
gain with *Clement*, to send her
one of his Deputies to *Mainte-
non*, where she had resolved to ly
in. She passed there for one of
the *Marchioness* of *Maintenon*'s best
Friends, so that the Deputy, who
delivered her, did not know, that
he had brought the Great *Alcan-
der*'s Mistress to bed.

In the mean time, to return to
the Duke of *Longueville*, who
finding (as I have already said) no
opportunity to be revenged of *Def-
fat*, he was obliged to make him-
self ready to follow the Great *Al-
cander*, who had declared War with
the *Hollanders*. This Campaigne
was extreamly glorious to this
Great Prince; but fatal to the Duke
of

of *Longueville*, for he being amu
fed at a debauch, an hour or tw
before the Great *Alcander* made hi
Troops paſs over the *Rhine*, th
Wine cauſed him unhappily t
diſcharge a Piſtol againſt the Ene
mies, who already talked of ſur
rendring themſelves, which wa
the reaſon that they diſcharged a
gain upon him, and upon the Chie
of the Great *Alcander*'s Army, o
which ſeveral were ſlain, and th
Duke of *Longueville* among the
reſt, who was the cauſe of this
misfortune.

The News of it being carried
to *Paris*, the *Mareſchaleſs* almoſt
died with grief, as well as many
other Ladies, who had an intereſt
in that young Prince's Perſon; he
was alſo generally lamented by all
Men, except *Deffiat*, who was there-
by rid of a powerful Enemy. In
making an Inventory of his Papers,
they found his laſt Will and Teſta-
ment, which he had made a little

before

ore his departure. All men were
prized to see, that in it he did
nowledge the Son which he had
the *Mareschales* for his natu-
Son, to whom he left five
ndred thousand Livres, in case
happened to dye before he were
rried.

This News being soon published
rough the whole Town, the *Ma-*
chales was advised of it by Ma-
m *de Bertillac* her good Friend,
o at the same time, warned her
have a care, least it should reach
r Husbands Ears. The *Mares-*
les grew almost mad to see her
ness becom thus publick; but
time brings comfort to every
ng, she bore it the best in the
orld, and could at last hear it
scourse of without blushing.
he Great *Alcander*, knowing that
e Duke of *Longueville*, had a Son
the *Mareschales*, was very glad
it. For whereas there was a
eat resemblance between the
Duke

Duke of *Longueville's* adventu
and his own; I would say, where
the Son, which the Duke left b
hind him, was born of a Marri
Woman, as well as those whi
the Great *Alcander* had by Mad
de Montespan; he desired, that th
should serve him for a precedent
legitimate his own Children, whe
ever he should have a mind to
and he sent an Order to the P
liament of *Paris*, to legitimate th
Duke of *Longueville's* Son, wit
out any obligation to name t
Mother, which was however co
trary to the Laws and Customs
the Realm.

When the first noise, which the
News had made, was a little ov
the *Mareschales*, who saw her R
putation lost amongst all Peop
of Honour, resolved to cast off
the little continency she had le
She tryed all those who were gl
to be contented with the Duke
Longueville's leavings, and wi
th

e leavings of several others, and ving tyed a strong Friendship ith Madam *de Bertillac*, who was ne of the fairest Creatures in all *aris*, they became each others onfident, and tasted all manner f Pleasures. The *Mareschalefs* ad a Foot man, who was since roak on the Wheel, and had one f the finest heads of Hair in the Vorld, and detraction would have it, hat he had a great share of her good ffections, because it was observed, hat she made some difference be- ween him, and her other Foot- men.

Madam *de Bertillac*'s great intima- y with the *Mareschalefs*, did not t all pleale Monsieur *de Bertillac* er Father in Law, who feared lest hat whil'st his Son was in the Army, his Daughter in Law might be debauched; but that was a thing already done; for she had not been able to hear the *Mareschalefs* discourse of the pleasure that there

was

was in playing a Husband fal
without having a desire to t
what it was. However Monsie
de Bertillac held as strict a hand
ver her as she could, he had
Eye upon her, and often recom
mended to her to have her h
nour before her Eyes. But he was to
much employed vvith the keepin
of the Great *Alcanders* Treasur
vvhich that Prince had trusted
him, so that as it vvas difficu
for him to be able to answver fo
his Daughter in Laws conduc
so it vvas easie for his Daughte
in Lavv, to make him think vve
of it.

In the mean time, Madam
Bertillac, being one day gone
a play with the *Mareschales*, vvher
the last had seen *le Basque* th
vaulter dance, she told the other
that she fancied, that a Man vvh
had such a supple back, vvas a
admirable performer, and said, tha
she had a great desire to make
trya

al of him her ſelf. The *Mareſcha-*
's Ingenuity having obliged Ma-
m *de Bertillac* to open alſo her
art, ſhe told her, that ſhe really
lieved, there would be a great
al of pleaſure in doing what ſhe
d, but that for her part, if ſhe
as curious of any thing, it was
knowing whether *Baron* the
mædian, was as agreeable a Per-
n in Converſation, as he was up-
the Stage. This confidence was
llowed by the approbation of the
areſchaleſs; ſhe exalted *Baron's*
erit, to the end that Madam *de*
rtillac might commend *le Baſque*,
nd each encouraging the other
prove this Adventure other-
iſe than in the Idea, they were
ſooner gone from the Play, but
ey reſolved to write to theſe two
len, to deſire their Company for
ne moment.

Baron and *le Baſque* were very
uch ſurprized at the Honour that
as done them, and having not
failed

failed to give them a civil answer
the enterview was at St. *Clou*, from
whence the Ladies returned so well
contented, that they agreed be-
tween themselves, that it should
not be the last time that they would
see them. They afterwards im-
parted to each other what had
happened to them, and they were
both obliged to confess unanimous-
ly, that it was not always men of
Quality that rendred the ablest Ser-
vice. As for the men, each of
them had not the same cause of
contentment. If *Baron* were sa-
tisfied with his fortune, *le Basq*
was unsatisfied with his; he found
the *Mareschales* insatiable; and he
told *Baron*, that although he much
wearied himself at the Play, yet
he had rather be obliged to dance
there all day, than be with her
only one hour; *Baron* did comfort
him with the good fortune he had
in being in Favour with a Woman
of great Quality, and he was fool

enough

ough to feed himself with this himæra.

In the mean time Madam *de rtillac* gave her self over to that ravagance, that she could not a moment without *Baron*, and ving understood that he had lost very considerable sum at play, forced him to take her Jewels, hich were well worth twenty ousand Crowns. But it happe- to her misfortune, that one of Father in Laws Friends being go to some publick Meeting, prayed him to borrow them her of his Daughter in Law; Monsieur *de Bertillac* being ry glad to oblige that Lady, bid adam *Bertillac* lend them to her, hich did extreamly perplex her. She having at first appeared sur- ized, Madam *de Bertillac* did be- ve, seeing that she was a Gam- r, she had played away or ned some part of them, and ding her to tell him where, to

the

the end that he might fetch the
out, ſhe confounded her ſelf mo
and more, by ſaying, ſometim
that ſhe had lent them one of h
Friends, and ſometimes that th
were with a Jeweller, who h
them to mend. Monſieur *de Be*
tillac, who was a man of Expe
ence, plainly perceived that the
was ſome Myſtery in the matte
but not being able to get any thi
more out of her, he was forced t
declare the buſineſs in his Daug
ter in Law's Family, who after ſ
veral Stories, did at length co
feſs, that ſhe had given them *B*
ron; however ſhe endeavoured t
diſguiſe it, under the name o
lending them. Her Relations wen
immediately to the Player, who
firſt denyed the matter, believin
that they ſpoke to him only ou
of ſuſpicion, but underſtanding i
a moment after, that Madam *d*
Bertillac her ſelf had been obliged
to diſcover him, and that they ha
already

ready acquainted the Great *Alexander* with it, ſo that it would rove almoſt his ruine, he choſe restore them, and avoided there- a great deal of trouble.

Monſieur *de Bertillac* believing, hat his Son, who was in the Army, ould not fail being adviſed of what ad paſſed, bethought himſelf, that was beſt for him, to give him otice of it himſelf, before any o- er; but Madam *de Bertillac*, who ad a great power over her Huſ- nds Spirit, having prevented him y a Letter, Monſieur *de Bertillac* as very much ſurprized, when ſtead of thanks, as he expected om his Son, he received nothing ut complaints, as if his Wife were ill in the right. Madam *de Ber- illac* carried her cunning yet far- her; ſhe deſired her Husband to uffer her to retire into a Convent, ying that ſhe could no longer ve with Monſieur *de Bertillac*, ho uſed her after ſuch a manner,

as

as had he not been her Father
Law, ſhe ſhould have believ
that he had been amorous of h
ſince he was become ſo Jealous

Theſe News tormented her H
band, who tenderly loved her, a
was very far from believing h
falſe, and attributing all the fa
to his Father, the reſt of the Ca
pagne did ſeem to him to laſt
thouſand years, he was in ſo mu
haſt to go and comfort this de
Spouſe. In the mean time he d
ſired his Father to leave his Wi
in repoſe, of whoſe Virtue he w
ſufficiently perſuaded, to belie
none of all thoſe Reports, whi
ran abroad to her diſadvantage
and as for her, he wrote to her h
no means to go into a Conven
unleſs ſhe deſired to make him d
with Grief; to have patience u
til the end of the Compagne, an
after that he would put every thi
in order. In effect, as ſoon as h
returned, he would not hear an
thin

hing to her prejudice; he lived ith her as he was accuſtomed, nd if ſhe had not dyed in a little me after, ſhe had gained ſo great n influence over him, that ſhe ould have done whatever ſhe had leaſed, without any contradicti- n from him.

Madam *de Bertillac's* Death made he *Mareſchaleſs* examine her ſelf. he told ſome of her Friends that e would renounce all the Vani- es of the World, but ſince ſhe ad ſaid as much after the Duke f *Longueville's* Death, and yet ad performed nothing of it, it as not believed that ſhe would eep her word any better this time, han ſhe did the other. In which one were deceived, for her Huſ- ands Death having ſet her at li- erty, to live after her own Mode, e made an infinite number of aſcals, who were yet more un- orthy, ſucceed *le Baſque.* The Chevalier *Grippefer* kept her until he

he was weary of her, to wh
the Abbot of *Lignerac* ſucceed
and as ſhe gave him a part of
Bed, ſhe obliged him to give
a ſhare of his Purſe. At laſt
Abbot of *Lignerac*, having quit
the Mother in Law for the Dau
ter in Law, ſhe is at this day
duced to give her ſelf up to
little *du Pré*, who not only gi
her ſome of his Orvietan, but
teaches her all the tricks of Ca
and of Cunning, wherewith t
bubble together all new come
and thoſe, who are fools enou
to expect fair play with a W
man, who hath ſo long ſince
nounced all Honour and Hon
ſty.

The *Mareſchaleſs*'s Example h
moved the Dutcheſs *de la Fe*
to be not more Virtuous. Howe
ſhe being younger, and, as ſ
thought, fairer, ſhe did not jud
it proper to expoſe her ſelf to
the World, as her Mother in La
did

d; but on the contrary, pre-
ming that she had Beauty enough
touch the Great *Alcander's* Sons
art, she began not to make Court
him, but Love, and that so o-
nly, that the whole World could
ot look upon her Impudence,
ithout blushing for her.

The *Mareschales de la Motte* her
other, who had been Governant
the Great *Alcanders* Son, and
ho had Married another of her
ughters to the Duke of *Vanta-*
r, of whose Conduct she was
eady not too well satisfied, soon
ceiving her Daughters designs,
solved to stop the course of them,
preserve what was left of Repu-
tion in her Family. She there-
re told the Dutchess *de la Ferte*,
l that a Mothers Experience and
uthority could dictate to her:
t all her Remonstrances did no
her good, than to make her
aughter conceal from her, while
exposed to the Eyes of all o-

thers, deſignes that made the le
moderate murmur. For one d
having found the Great *Alexand*
Son in a good humour, ſhe ſa
very confident things to him, a
the Prince having praiſed the Be
ty of her Hair, which was inde
very fair, and of a beauteous C
lour, ſhe told him, that if he ha
ſeen her Head undreſt, he woul
have been much better pleaſed wit
them, that when he pleaſed ſh
would give him that ſatisfactio
and ſtooping her Head at the ſam
time, to ſhew him what quant
ty ſhe had of them, ſhe put he
hand into a place, which decenc
forbids me to name, while th
young Prince conſidered only he
head, poſſibly without mindin
what ſhe did. The Prince b
ing then very young, the Dutch
eſs *de la Ferte*'s action made hi
more aſhamed than it did her, an
retreating back a ſtep or two, h
confuſion encreaſed when he ſa
thi

t his Shirt hung out before, and
t he muſt put it up again. The
uſh, which at the ſame time ap-
ared in his Face, with ſome o-
er circumſtances that were ob-
rved, made it conceived, that
e Lady had not altogether loſt
r time while ſhe ſtooped down;
t ſhe, not being the more out of
ountenance for that, told the
ince, who was putting up his
rt, that it was not very decent
do what he did before Ladies,
d that if her Husband ſhould
ance to come by, it would be e-
ugh to make him Jealous.

The Prince gave her no leaſure
purſue a diſcourſe, the matter of
hich was diſagreeable to him,
that after he went away, ſhe
ld two or three Ladies of her
quaintance, that ſhe had ſeen a
an who was no man, and they
t knowing what ſhe meant by
t, and yet deſiring to know it,
told them, that ſhe had been

juſt then to ſee the Great *Alexanders* Son, who nevertheleſs could never be his Son. They preſſed to explain the Riddle, which would not do, although they treated her; but theſe Ladies having underſtood the young Prince's Adventure, did eaſily gueſs at the reſt, and it was not difficult to believe, but that the diſorder, which in he appeared, was the Dutcheſs's own handy work.

The Great *Alexander*, having been adviſed of it, told the *Mareſchalleſs de la Motthe*, that he was not at all ſatisfied with her Daughter, and he commanded her to warn the Dutcheſs to have a more honourable Conduct; otherwiſe he ſhould be obliged to tell her Husband to look after it. In the meantime, this Husband was a man who took no great care, either of his Wives Reputation, or of his own, and provided that he might drink, and frequent Baudy-hou

valued not what men talk't of,
what might happen; he was
nſtantly with a company of lewd
ung Fellows, whoſe brave ex-
oits did conſiſt only in promo-
g a Debauch, even to the laſt
remity. So that the Wenches,
w bold or impudent ſoever they
ere, never ſaw them enter their
ouſes without trembling.

About this time they did act a
olick, that went a little too far,
that made a great deal of noiſe,
th in the Court and Town; for
er having ſpent the whole day
ith ſome Courtizans, where they
d committed a thouſand diſorders;
ey Supt at the three Spoons in *Bear-*
et; where being overtaken with
ine, they took up a Wafer-ma-
r, whoſe manly parts they cut
, and put them in his Basket.
his poor wretch ſeeing himſelf
the hands of theſe Executio-
rs, alarum'd not only the whole
ouſe, but even the whole Street

with his Cries and Lamentatio
But although there came abo
them many People, who wou
have diſſuaded them from ſo
humane an Action, yet they wou
not give over, and the operati
being finiſhed, they ſent away t
unhappy Wafer-maker, who we
to dye at his Maſters Houſe.

This exceſs of debauchery,
rather of madneſs, being know
to the Great *Alcander*, he conc
ved a dreadful anger at it. B
the greater part of theſe deſper
men having Relation to the Ch
of the Court, and even to the M
niſters, he thought it proper,
conſideration of their Families,
content himſelf with their Baniſ
ment, and their Kindred found th
Sentence ſo mild, in compariſon
what they deſerved, that they r
turned thanks to the Great *Alca*
der for it, ſeriouſly confeſſing, th
ſo enormous a Crime did merit n
thing leſs than Death.

Th

The Marquis *de Camardon* and the Chevalier *Gripesou*, who had been concerned in the Debauch, and who were always the first to draw the others on, were a little mortified before their departure. For this last, who was the Son of the Famous Monsieur *Gripesou*, was entertained by his Father with a good Cudgelling in the presence of a great many People; as he was a great Politician, he was very glad that it should be told the Great *Alcander*, that he could not hear of so horrid an irregularity without giving it some chastisement. As for the Marquis *de Camardon*, the Great *Alcander* said in discourse concerning him, that he should not, during his life, ever pretend to be a Duke, and that he would always be more ready to give him marks of his disdain, than to do any thing for him, that might raise his Fortune. However we now see, that the Great *Alcander* has forgot his word, unless

leſs it will be ſaid, that it was no
to the Marquis of *Camardon* th
he hath lately granted the Di
nity of a Duke, but to Madam
ſelle *de Laval*, whom *Camar*
hath Married.

The noiſe which this Frolic
had made, being a little pacified
the Kindred of thoſe who wer
Baniſhed, did ſolicit their return
while the Durcheſs *de la Fer*
wiſht that her Husband might no
return ſo ſoon, having very good
reaſons for it, which I will rela
in few words. When ſhe perceived that ſhe in vain pretended to
the Conqueſt of the Great *Alexanders* Son, ſhe fell to the firſt co-
mer, with whom ſhe had no rea-
ſon at all to be contented. For
ſome body made her a very bad
preſent, and ſhe having no expe-
rience in a certain ilneſs that in-
commoded her, took a reſolution to
go incognito to a Famous Chirur-
geons Houſe to be better informed

of

it. Being arrived there all alone
a Hackney Chair, which made
m expect no great good from a
oman of her fashion, she decla-
d her business to him without
ny Ceremony, telling him, that
me days since she felt some indis-
osition, which made her fear that
r Husband, who was something
ebauched, had not had that con-
deration for her, which he ought
o have had. Then she desired
im to examine the matter, and
o tell her his opinion, and at the
ame time shewing the Symptomes,
he expected that the Chirurgion
ould at least shew himself pitti-
ul in entring into her concern;
ut he, being accustomed to hear
very day things cast upon the
oor Husbands, whereof they for
he most part were innocent, told
her, that he was so wearied out
with these kind of Stories, that he
could no longer have any complai-
sance for those that told them, that

without giving her ſelf farther tro
ble in accuſing her Husband, t
ſhould think only of putting h
ſelf into ſome ſpeedy courſe of Cu
becauſe the Diſeaſe, which ſhe h
might become worſe, if ſhe ſhou
chance to neglect it.

That Declaration amazed th
Dutcheſs, who had often heard h
Husband ſpeak of theſe kinds o
Diſtempers, of which experienc
had rendred him skilful, and bein
very deſirous to know, if that, whic
ſhe had, were the greateſt of all
ſhe inquired it of the Chirurgion
The Chirurgion anſwered, No
but that, as he had already told
her, ſhe muſt be ſpeedily cured,
or elſe it might become ſuch. When
ſhe heard that, ſhe told him, that
ſhe had ſo great a confidence in
him, by reaſon of the Reputation
which he had in the World, that
ſhe would put her ſelf entirely into
his hands; and at the ſame time
naming her ſelf, ſhe ſurprized the

Chi-

Chirurgion; who knowing that he had to do with a Perſon of the higheſt Quality, was troubled he had talked to her after the rate he had done. He asked her pardon for his having appeared ſo free in words, excuſing himſelf, that ſince the greateſt Proſtitutes did frequently entertain him with the ſame Language, which ſhe had uſed, he thought himſelf obliged to make her thoſe anſwers that he did, he not having the honour to know her.

The Dutcheſs eaſily pardoned him, nevertheleſs upon condition, that he ſhould ſoon diſpatch the buſineſs, which the Chirurgion promiſed her, if ſhe would obſerve a certain rule of living. She told him, that ſhe would do every thing that he ſhould order her. And did even more; for ſhe would keep her Bed while ſhe took Phyſick, fearing, that if ſhe had continued to live as ſhe was accuſtomed to

do,

do, watching might have heated her Blood, and rendred her Cure more difficult.

In the mean time, though she had no mind to see any body; yet since it was very tiresome for her to be alone continually, she permitted Monsieur the Advocate, the Master of Requests, to come and Visit her, who had long since made love unto her without being able to obtain any favour. Monsieur the Advocate was a *Jews* Son, of the City of *Paris*, who after having gotten an Estate of two Millions by his Usury, suffred himself to dye with cold, for fear of laying out a penny upon a Faggot. His Mother was also of the Jewish Race. Nevertheless, with all that, he was esteemed a man of Quality, and tho' he was of the long Robe, yet he never was pleased, but when he was in the Company of Sword men, to whom he served for a Divertisement. He affected

fected to appear a Huntſman, al-
though he underſtood not one term
of the Profeſſion, and if he ever
chanced to diſcharge a Gun, which
he very ſeldom did, he turned his
head back, leſt the Fire ſhould ſeize
his Hair. Moreover he was a
great Talker and a great Lyer, but
withal the beſt natured man in the
World, offering every man his ſer-
vice, but never ſerving any man.
The Reputation which he had
of being no dangerous man with
the Women, to whom it was ſaid,
that he could do neither good nor
harm, having made the Dutcheſs
de la Ferte believe, that he would
receive leſs of the reaſon which
kept her a bed, than any other, ſhe
allowed him to come and Viſit her;
and he putting a great value upon
that favour, returned her thanks pro-
portionable to his Wit. He proteſted
to her, that after markes of ſo great
diſtinction, he vvould live and dye
her very humble Servant, and to
give

give her more eſſential Teſtimonies of his *Attachment*, he ſwo to her, that neither her ſelf or a of her Friends, ſhould ever ha a Suit depending, before him, b right or wrong he would judge of their ſide, without ever ex mining the Merits of the Cau it being enough for him to know that ſhe had a concern in it.

After a thouſand other Prot ſtations of Service of the like n ture, he at length returned to th love, which he had ſo long ago ha for her, and endeavouring to mak his Eyes agree with his Words, h turned them languiſhing upon her asking her, if ſhe was reſolved to b his death. The Dutcheſs *de L Ferte* told him, it was apparent that ſhe had no ſuch deſign, as h himſelf might eaſily judge; ſince ſhe had ſent for him, well remembring, that he had ſeveral times told her, he could not live without ſeeing her. This anſwer made the Ad

vocate

vocate begin again his Comple-
ments, which would not have had
an end, if she had not interrup-
ted them to ask him, how he ma-
naged *Louison D'Arquien*. He blusht
at that Question, and the Dutchess,
perceiving it, told him, that she e-
steemed men that had some Mo-
desty, that it was indeed true, that
this Girl being a common Whore,
it was not over creditable to visit
her; but since that the Count *de*
Saux, the Marquis *de Camardon*,
the Duke *de la Ferte* himself, and
even all the Court did the same,
it could not be more disgraceful
for him to Visit her, than it was
for so many Persons of Quality,
that, provided he did not enter-
tain her publickly, as was reported,
there was no great harm in it; but
for her part, she never would be-
lieve any such thing, having always
thought him too discreet for that.

Monsieur the Advocate, Master
of Requests, having loudly affirmed

that

that it was a lye, and even would have affirmed, that he had never ſeen her, if the Dutcheſs had not given him an opportunity to excuſe himſelf, by turning the converſation as he had done. He therefore told her, that he had never been with *Louiſon D'Arquien* but with Company, and thinking to ſay the fineſt things in the World, he ſwore to her, that what Beauty ſoever thoſe kind of Women had, he made a very great difference between them, and a Perſon of her Merit; and at the ſame time endeavouring to give a deſcription of her, he let her ſee that though his Judgment was not very good, yet that he had a great Memory; for the Dutcheſs remembred, that ſhe had ſome days ſince read in a Book of Gallantry all thoſe things which he at that time applied to her.

In the mean time ſhe was almoſt ſcandalized at the Compariſon

which

hich he ſeemed to have made be-
een her and *Louiſon D'Arquien*,
r notwithſtanding the difference
hich he alleged, ſhe could not
rbear being offended at it, and pro-
bly for that being conſcious of
e courſe of life which ſhe her ſelf
ad, ſhe took it as a private hint,
hich the Advocate would have
ven her; but when ſhe conſi-
ered, that he was of no malici-
us Nature, and that theſe words
ad eſcaped him rather by chance,
han out of any ill purpoſe, ſhe ap-
eaſed her anger, and the conver-
ation ended without any ſharp-
eſs.

On the morrow he returned to
iſit the Dutcheſs, and found her
ry ill, ſhe had that day taken
rong Phyſick, and ſhe very much
omplained of the pains which ſhe
uffered, attributing them to the
edicine, which ſhe had taken,
hereof there ſtill remained about
alf in a Glaſs upon the Table.

He

He took the Glaſs, and ſwallow
the Medicine, ſaying, that he cou
not endure to ſee the Perſon, who
he loved beſt in the world, in pai
while he himſelf was in perfe
health.

The Dutcheſs could not fo
bear laughing at this extravaga
cy, which the Maſter of Requeſ
did however cry up, as a mark o
the greateſt love that ever was
but afterwards reflecting, that th
Phyſick might poſſibly hinder hi
from going abroad on the mo
row, and conſequently that h
would not be able to ſee the Dutch
eſs all that day, he fetcht ſuc
ſighs and groans as made the Dutch
eſs laugh, and put an end to th
Comedy; for the Gripes havin
immediately taken him, he hard
ly had time to get to his Coach
and retire home.

There being *Mercury* in the Me
dicine, he was ſufficiently torment
ted all that night, and all the nex
day

ay, and not being able to go to
he Dutcheſſes, he writ to her a
illet, of which I cannot give you
he very words, they having ne-
er fallen into my hands; but ha-
ing heard it ſufficiently talked of
n the world, as of a very ridicu-
ous thing, I can relate the ſenſe,
hich here follows.

*That he could not have the Ho-
our to ſee her all the day, becauſe
e was become like thoſe common
omen, who could not warrant them-
elves from acting lewdneſs with
heir Bodies, ſince they had got ſuch
n habit of it; that his own Body
as ſo inured to certain things, which
e durſt not name, that he muſt
f neceſſity keep his Chamber, un-
il he was entirely recovered of his
ndiſpoſition. In the mean time,
e prayed her to believe, that he
id not take the Phyſick as a Re-
edy againſt Love, but to ſhew her,
hat he ſhould be amorous of her du-
ing his life.*

The

The Dutcheſs read over and o
ver again the Billet, with wond
how a man, who was fifty yea
old and upwards, and who ha
ſeen ſo much of the world, coul
be ſo great a Fool, and being ve
ry glad to continue diverting he
ſelf with him, ſhe was very impa
tient to ſee him again. The Ad
vocate, after having ſuffered, fo
two days, all that could be ſuffered
from that kind of Phyſick, came to
tell her, that at length he was free
(thanks be to God) from the ill
neſs that he had endured; that
he wiſhed her health equal to that
which he enjoyed, and that if he
knew, that the doing once more of
that, which he had done, would
advance her Cure, he was ready
to devote himſelf to all manner of
Torments for her love.

The Dutcheſs thanked him for
his good will, and told him, that,
beginning to be a little better, ſhe
was in hopes her Diſeaſe would
ſoon

on leave her. That however as
r Body recovered, her Mind grew
ck; that she wanted two hun-
red Pistols for an urgent occasion,
nd that not knowing where to get
hem, she could not take any rest
ther day or night.

Though the Advocate was, as
have said before, a Rich man's
n; yet three things did contri-
ute to render him not much at
s ease. The first was, that his
ther had left behind him a great
nny Children; the second was,
hat his Jewish Mother, who pos-
st half the Estate, was still alive;
nd the other was, that he had pur-
hased an Office, which had cost
im a great deal, but brought him
no large revenue. All this (I
y) was the cause, that he was
ften put to his shifts for ready
money. He could not at that very
hour offer the Dutchess the two
hundred Pistols, which she had oc-
asion for, but he promised to bring
them

them to her on the morrow, a
indeed he did not break his wo
which was a thing very extra
dinary for him.

I cannot tell what uſe the Dutc
eſs had for this money, it being b
yond my knowledge, but if I m
be allowed to judge of it by th
Circumſtances that followed th
Preſent, I will ſay, that it mu
have been very great. For as ſoo
as ſhe ſaw the Advocate arrive wit
a Purſe, ſhe embraced him wit
all the appearances of a great ten
derneſs, and the Advocate bein
thereby provoked to things, whic
ſurpaſſed, it ſeems, his natural forc
endeavoured not to let ſlip an oc
caſion, which was not every da
preſented to him, and againſt whic
the Dutcheſs made no manner o
reſiſtance.

In fine, whether the Dutcheſ
had forgotten the rule of living
which the Chirurgion had ordere
her, or whether ſhe imagined, tha
ſhe

had between her Arms ſome
dy more agreeable than the Ad-
cate, ſhe accorded him the laſt
vour for his money. As the Ad-
cate was not very importunate,
contented himſelf with one ſin-
Teſtimony of the Dutcheſſes
mity, without deſiring any more.
went home the moſt ſatisfied
n in the world, and muſing
ly upon the Greatneſs, where-
to he was called, he became yet
re ſilly, and more vain than be-
e.

In the mean time, being very
reful of his health, and having
rd it ſaid, that exceſs of every
ng was hurtful, he ſtaid three or
r days without returning to the
utcheſſes, at the end of which,
began to find himſelf unex-
ctedly ill. He could hardly be-
ve at firſt what he ſaw, but at
gth knowing that the moſt in-
dulous had believed, when they
d ſeen, he began to be convinced,

that

that he ailed ſomething, and to
the more aſſured of it, he had
Council of Phyſitians, who told h
that he was not deceived. In t
mean time it cannot be ſaid, wh
ther this accident filled him mo
with ſpight, or with joy. For
one ſide, if he thought that t
Dutcheſs had done ill by him,
treating him ſo ſcurvily the fi
time, on the other ſide he con
dered, that ſhe was ſtill a Dutc
eſs, and Vanity having a gre
power over him, he concluded wi
himſelf, that the Favours of ſuc
Perſons, be they what they wi
were never to be deſpiſed. H
joyned alſo another conſideratio
to this reflection, to wit, that th
accident being ſpread abroad in t
world would re-eſtabliſh his Re
putation among all Women, wh
having until then taken him for
Kinſman of the Marquis *de Langue*
that is to ſay, for a man who mu
have been divorced, if he had ha

Wife, would now be obliged to
nfeſs themſelves ſometimes mi-
aken.

It was for that reaſon alſo, that
e had ſo publickly kept *Louiſon*
Arquien, of whom the Dutcheſs
d upbraided him, as is above re-
red; but they had no better o-
nion for all that of his perfor-
ance, and there was ſtill want-
g this laſt circumſtance to unde-
ive all the World. Inſtead there-
re of concealing himſelf, as ano-
er would have done, he went pub-
kly into a courſe of Phyſick, and
s intimate acquaintance doubting
s Diſeaſe, he confirmed them in
eir ſuſpicion, and made a Gal-
ntry of it, as any vain young
llow would have done.

In the mean time this circum-
nce, which he believed ſo ad-
ntageous to his Reputation,
s more hurtful to his Fortune
an he was awar. For being ei-
er ill ordered in the beginning,

or perhaps being of a temper diffi
cult to be cured, he was obliged
to undergo a Flux. Moreover
the Great *Alcander*, having heard
of his diſorder, loſt the little eſteem
he might have had of him, and
denyed him the Office of Mayor
of the City of *Paris*, which he was
inclined to give him upon the re
commendation of Monſieur *de Pom*
pone his Brother in Law, who was
one of his Miniſters.

Monſieur the Advocates adven
ture, which all the world failed
not to impute to the Dutcheſs *de*
la Ferte, gave the *Mareſchale*
de la Motte her Mother very great
vexation; neither was ſhe better
contented with the Dutcheſs of
Vantadour, who accuſed her Hus
band of having given her a Clap,
but who under the pretence, that
he was debauched, gave her ſelf
up entirely to Monſieur *de Tilla*
det, Monſieur *de Louvoy*'s Cou
German. The Duke of *Vantad*

was a little man, very falſe and diſſembling, yet wanted no Courage. He, having had ſome hint of his Wives Intrigue, reſolved to watch her ſo narrowly, as to take her in the Fact. For this purpoſe he permitted her to make a journey with the Dutcheſs *D'Aumont* his Siſter, reaſonably gueſſing, that if there were any truth in what was told him, the Gallant would not fail to meet her upon her way. In the mean time he took horſe to obſerve their motions, and arrived every Evening incognito in the ſame Inn, where his Wife lodged. He had not held this courſe above five or ſix dayes, when he ſaw Monſieur *de Tilladet* arrive Poſt, who was in ſuch haſt to ſee Madam *de Vantadour*, that he did not give himſelf time ſo much as to take off his Boots, or even to bruſh off the duſt. He pretended to the Duke *D'Aumont*, that he was alſo upon a Journey,

and that chance had brought him into the Inn. But the Duke of *Vantadour*, who knew very well what to think of it, not giving them leiſure to enter into a long converſation, went up ſtaiers immediately with his Sword in hand and he ſurprized the whole Company, who little dream't of him and thought that he had been far enough off from thence.

The Duke D'*Aumont*, who at his firſt Marriage, had taken to Wife Monſieur *de Louvoy*'s Siſter Monſieur *Tilladets* Couſin *German* took his part againſt the Duke of *Vantadour* his Brother in Law alledging for a reaſon, that the Duke had ſo little conſideration for him, as to come even to the Chamber, to aſſault a man, who had never given him any cauſe to be his Enemy; ſo with the help of his Servants, he prevented the miſchief, and having underſtood that there was jealouſie in the ca

ease, he advised the Dutchess of *Vantadour*, to beware going with her Husband, who would carry her away by force, which advice she punctually followed.

Madam *de Vantadour*'s denyal put her Husband into an absolute fury, and he being very quarrelsome, challenged the Duke *D'Aumont* to fight, and gave him mighty abusive Language; but the Duke *D'Aumont* did not think himself obliged to take any notice of it, because it proceeded from a man, who had no great esteem in the world.

In the mean time, the Duke of *Vantadour* having been forced to depart without his Wife, complained to the Great *Alcander*, that the Duke *D'Aumont* had kept her from him, the Greatest men of the Court concerned themselves in this quarrel, and the Prince of *Conde*, who was the Duke of *Vantadour*'s Kinsman, said very bitter things to the

Mareſchaleſs de la Motte, who, pre
tending to excuſe her Daughter an
the Duke *D'Aumont*, endeavoure
to diſhonour the Duke of *Fant*
dour. The Great *Alcander* did for
bid fighting on either ſide, and ha
ving taken cogniſance of the bu
ſineſs, he layed all the blame up
on the Duke, and he permitte
his Wife either to return to him
or to retire into a Religious Houſe
as it ſhould ſeem good unto her.

Neither of theſe two conditi
ons did very well pleaſe the Dutch
eſs, who had rather have had
third, had it been in her choiſe,
which was to remain with th
Dutcheſs *D'Aumont* her Siſter, where
ſhe might have every day ſeen
Monſieur *de Tilladet*; but th
Great *Alcander* having pronoun-
ced the Sentence, it was her part
to ſubmit to his Judgment, which
ſhe did, by retiring into a ſmall
Convent in the Suburb of St. *Mar-
ceau*. Monſieur *de Tilladet* ſaw
her

er there twice or thrice incogni-
o, by the Superiours consent.

In a little time after, the Exiles, whom I have some while since mentioned, returned to Court, and were obliged to behave themselves more discreetly. The Duke *de la Serte* found his Wife recovered, but the Advocate's Cure was not yet perfected, and although he at first comforted himself with the hopes of having (as I have already said) a better Reputation; yet it cost him so dear, that he heartily wisht, he had long ago renounced all the Vanities of the world, and left the filth wherein he wallowed. At length his Chirurgion having finish-ed the Cure, he soon forgot the sickness he had ailed, and having heard the business of the Duke *D'Aumont* and the Duke of *Vantadour* talk't of, and his way being to procure reconciliations, he told them both, that he was very much troubled at his not having been

in health at that time, otherwi
he would have rendred them th
Service.

In the mean time he having th
colour of one already dead, ever
body asked him, if he were no
returned out of the other world
he was at first much perplexed t
give it an answer, but being a
length hardned to these kind o
questions, he himself would begi
laughing at them with the others
which put an end to all the rai
lery that was made about him. On
day the Dutchess *de la Ferte* ha
ing a mind to be pleasant upon him
he being naturally very brutish
answered her——Zwouns, Madam,
it ill becomes you to laugh at that
condition, which you your self di
put me in, believe me, this was
the first, and shall be the last time
while I live, that I will have to
do with you, and though I have
kept Company with *Louyson D'Ar
quien* a whole year, which I now
will

will freely confeſs unto you: I never have had the leaſt reaſon to complain of her, when as I have been with you hardly a minute, and yet I ſhall have reaſon to repent of it, during my whole life.

The Dutcheſs could not ſuffer theſe reproaches from the Advocate without entring into a dreadful paſſion. She took up the Tongs, and ſtruck him with it with all her ſtrength, and making ill Language ſucceed her blows, ſhe ſaid, that things were come to a fine paſs indeed, when a pitiful Citizen, ſuch as he was, durſt preſume to make himſelf ſo familiar with a Woman of her Quality, that, allowing what he had ſaid to be true, yet the Honour was too great for him. She bid him get out of her Houſe, otherwiſe ſhe would make him leap out at the Windows, and ſhe puſht him towards the Door with the end of the Tongs. Monſieur the Advocate, who ſaw that there was

no jesting with her, threw himself at her Feet, and begged her pardon, he owned that he had wronged her, but to excuse himself, he said, that it was out of impatience to see her insult over him, imagining that she did it only out of contempt, that that was the reason of his complaints, though indeed there was no fault to be found with her niceness, and that if she had been present at his torments she should have seen him endure them with so great a Resignation that she would have confest him to have been a true Martyr of Love.

All these reasons did not soften the Dutchesses Spirit, which was haughty and disdainful; and having made him depart her Chamber, she forbid him ever to come again into her sight, unless he would expose himself to a much more rude entertainment. The Advocate went away with a very heavy heart,

eart, fetching deep ſighs, and ha-
ing a very great mind to cry,
ut being to paſs the Court of *de*
a Ferte's Houſe, which is very
arge, and fearing to meet ſome-
body, he kept back his tears until
e was in his Coach.

As ſoon as he was in it, there
ame one of the *Mareſchal de la*
Ferte's People, to tell him, that
is Maſter would ſpeak with him
efore he went away, which cau-
ed him to endeavour ſtill to re-
train them, and after having ad-
uſted his Perruque and his Band,
which were in a little diſorder, he
went up into the *Mareſchal's* Ap-
artment, where he found a very
handſome Lady with ſome Gen-
lemen, who were all there for a
quarrel which they had together.
The *Mareſchal* told him that he had
given him the trouble of coming
up, to ſee if there were any means
to compound a difference between
theſe People, without obliging them

to

to come before a general Assembly of the Mareschals of *France*, and there being already some proceedings had on either side, and those regarding him (for the Great *Alexander* had granted the hearing of all things of this nature to the Advocate) he would be glad to know his opinion of it.

Monsieur the Advocate asked what the matter was, and the *Mareschal* having told him that he must needs have seen the Informations, the Master of Requests answered, that his Secretary had not yet laid them before him, which served for a good excuse. The *Mareschal* knowing that it was an establisht Custom with him, to let his Secretary do all the business, told him, that the Lady, whom he saw there before him, complained, that a Gentleman who was also there present, had dishonoured her by scandalous Stories; for which she demanded satisfaction; that though

though there were no Witneſſes, yet the thing was averred by the Gentleman's own confeſſion, who maintained, that, far from having injured the Lady, he was very much in the right; that to juſtifie that, he reported, how that he had paſſionately loved her, and had ſought after all opportunities of ſerving her; that he had rendred her ſo conſideable a ſervice as to furniſh her at one time with 200 Piſtols, but that in recompence ſhe had given him nothing but a Diſeaſe, which had kept him three entire Months in his Bed; that he, believing he had reaſon to complain of it, had publiſht, that this Lady was not cruel, but yet that he would have no more of her Favours at that price.

Monſieur the Advocate hearing a Story that had ſo great a relation with his own, believed that his Intrigue was diſcovered, and that ſome body muſt have hearkened

ened at the Dutcheſſes Door; being therefore quite out of countenance, he bluſht and grew pale again, and wrapping himſelf up in his Cloak, he told the *Mareſchal* that he jeered him, and took his way towards the Door, without ſaying any thing more. The *Mareſchal*, who was in his Bed, not being able to run after him, called him back; but ſeeing that he would not return, he commanded the Captain of his Guards, not to ſuffer him to go away ſo, becauſe he had need of him to compound that buſineſs. Monſieur the Advocate made a difficulty of turning back, telling the Captain that Monſieur the *Mareſchal* only rallied with him: But the Captain having told him, that there was no jeſting in the caſe, and that what the *Mareſchal* did, was becauſe he deſired to do thoſe Perſons ſervice, he re-entred the Chamber, and the *Mareſchal* asked him ſince when

he

he had given over making composition between Gentlemen, a reproach which he made him, because he knew, that under pretence of such business, he neglected other Affairs which did appertain to the Duty of the Office, which he had in the Great *Alcanders* Council.

After that Monsieur the Advocate had excused himself as well as he could, they began to handle the matter in question, and without waiting for a deduction of all the Particulars, he decreed, that the Gentleman should be sent to Prison, from whence he should not be set free, until he had asked the Ladie's pardon, who to thank him for his favourable Decree, made him a very low reverence. The Advocates Sentence was punctually followed by the *Mareschal*, and the Gentleman was sent into Prison. In the mean time Monsieur the Advocate being retired home, he

he called for Pen, Ink and Paper and writ a Billet to the Dutche *de la Ferte*, whereof here is a Co py.

The Advocates Letter to the Dutcheſs *de la Ferte*.

I Could not make you a greater ſa tisfaction for my fault, than tha which I have done in going fro your Chamber. A Gentleman, wh had the ſame quarrel with a Lad as I have with you, hath been ſen to Priſon, and beſides I have con demned him to recant all that he hath ſaid, though poſſibly he migh have told nothing but the truth, a well as my ſelf. If the ſame re paration may ſatisfie you; Order me only into what Priſon you will have me go, and I will punctually obey you, having reſolved to be for my life your Priſoner of Love.

The

The Dutcheſs *de la Ferte* found the Advocates Character in this Letter, which was, to ſay the ſilleſt things in the world, when he thought to ſay the fineſt. She had a mind to make him a very ſharp anſwer, but judging that it would argue more of reſentment, than of diſdain, ſhe continued ſilent, which did extreamly afflict Monſieur the Advocate. Who beſides the pleaſure which he took in being great with a Dutcheſs, ſaw himſelf thereby deprived of dining with her, which was very commodious for him, and which he often did, he himſelf being no Houſ-keeper, and the Dutcheſs lodging near him. At length ſeeing that his diſgrace did ſtill continue, he addicted himſelf entirely to the Duke of *Vantadour*, whom he adviſed to be reconciled to his Wife. He was the ſecret Mediator of the Reconciliation, and finding there, what he had loſt in the

other

other place, that is to ſay, as muc
quality at leaſt as with the Dutche
de la Ferte, a fine Woman, and
good Table, he ſtuck cloſe to th
Table, and endeavoured to ga
the Woman, who, being more re
ſerved in her Pleaſures than her S
ſter, did reject the Advocate, the ver
firſt time he would have ſpoken t
her, in ſuch a manner that he dur
not expoſe himſelf to a ſecond denia

In the mean time the Duke an
the Dutcheſs *de la Ferte* held o
the ſame courſe of life as the
had begun. The Dutcheſs had th
Abbot of *Lignerac* for a Gallan
and his money was to him inſtea
of merit. As for the Duke, h
ſtopt at nothing, and being a man
that neither minded or eſteeme
perfect love, he found Miſtreſſe
as often, and as many as he plea-
ſed, in the publick places, and hi
paſſion being ſoon ſatisfied, he di
frequently beat them, after having
embraced them, and thus he mad
blow

lows ſucceed his Careſſes, as ſome-
mes his Embraces ſucceeded
lows. One day that he made a
ebauch in one of thoſe places with
e Duke *de Foix*, *Camardon*, and
me others, *Camardon* told him,
at he wondred, that he who lo-
ed to reliſh Pleaſures in their pure
ature, had not once cauſed his
ife to come and lye with him
metimes, at *Louyſon D'Arquin's*,
r at *Madelon du Pre's*, that he would
ve found there a thouſand times
ore ſatisfaction than at home, and
at if he would make a tryal of it,
e would without doubt be of the
me opinion.

Though the Duke *de la Ferte* was
ot over curious upon his Wives
core; yet he found fault with
hat *Camardon* had ſaid, of bring-
ng her into a place of Debauche-
y, and the Duke of *Foix*, who was
Camardon's Brother in Law, ap-
proved of what Monſieur *de la Fer-*
te ſaid, adding, that the Dutcheſs

de

de la Ferte was not a Woman
come into thoſe kind of places. C
mardon anſwered him, that ſhe w
one that might come thither
well as any other, as alſo his Wi
who was yet more ſcrupulous th
the Dutcheſs *de la Ferte*. Th
if they would only lay a Wa
with him of an hundred Piſto
he would undertake to bring the
both thither, when he pleaſed, a
being earneſt in affirming the m
ter, he made the whole Comp
ny laugh, who knew him to b
man infinitely agreeable, and of
excellent Wit. He in the mean ti
retracted nothing from what
had propoſed, but framing a re
lution of letting them ſee the
fect of what he told them, he de
trouſly changed the diſcourſe,
that there was no farther reflec
on made upon what he had ſaid

Within five or ſix days afte
wards, *Camardon* was to viſit h
Siſter the Dutcheſs *de Foix*, an
to

ld her that he had made a match
ith the Dutcheſs *de la Ferte* to
o into St. *Germains* Fair, and that
ſhe would go along, he would
rry them both thither ſome morn-
g; but that ſhe muſt not tell her
usband of it; that the Dutcheſs
e la Ferte would alſo conceal it
om hers, and that there were cer-
in reaſons, why they ſhould know
othing of it, until they were ar-
ived in the Fair. The Dutcheſs
e Foix aſſented to it without in-
orming her ſelf farther of thoſe
eaſons. The Match being made,
nd the day appointed to be the
morrow, he then took her in his
Coach, and went to fetch the Dutch-
ſs *de la Ferte*, to whom he had
id as much.

As they were upon the way,
ſome part of the Coach broak all
on the ſuddain, and the two La-
dies being frightned with the dan-
ger of being over-turned, cryed
out to the Coach-man to hold,
who

who immediately obeyed them. All this was but a trick designed by *Camardon*, in order to make a demonſtration to their Husbands that he had told them nothing but what he was ſure of performing. In the mean time having helped out the Ladies, he very haſtily asked his Coach-man, what was the matter, and quarrelled with him very much in appearance, becauſe he had not ſeen whether the Coach was in order, before his coming out. Then he told the Ladies that there was no ſtaying for them in the Street, that he was well acquainted with a Citizen hard by, to whoſe houſe they had beſt go, and repoſe themſelves, while the Coach was refitting.

Theſe Ladies, having no other choice to make, willingly aſſented to it, and being come to a houſe they were there received by a Woman, who ſhew'd them a great deal

of

Civility. She brought them in- a very handsome Chamber, and tertained them very well, while *mardon* was in another Room writing two Notes to the Duke *Foix*, and *de la Ferte*, by which desired them to come speedily him at *Madelon du Pre*'s, which as the very place whither he d brought their Wives.

The Dukes *de Foix*, and *de Ferte*, having received these otes, hastened to the place ap- inted. *Camardon* ran to meet em, and desired them not to be oubled at the pains that they had ken; that he would shew them o of the finest Women in Town, hom *du Pre* had lately discove- d; and immediately opening to em the Chamber Door, wherein e Dutchesses *de la Ferte* and *de ix* were, he presented the Ladies them, desiring them both to use em so well, as not to let them o away in discontent. 'Tis easie

to

to judge of the aſtoniſhment th
theſe two Dukes were in, but th
of the Dutcheſſes was much greate
who knowing where they wer
had a mind to be ſeriouſly angry
with *Camard n*: But he rallyin
them all four, obliged them to laug
at it along with him, and havin
beſpoke a Dinner, they all fiv
dined together in that honeſt plac
though the Women made a ſhew
as if they would not ſtay there an
longer.

Nevertheleſs when they perceiv
ed, that it was their Husband
pleaſure, they were perſuaded t
ſtay; and to paſs away the time
while they expected Dinner, the
deſired *du Pre* to give them a figh
of her Nuns; which ſhe did, be
cauſe, imagining that they wer
all of the ſame Siſterhood, ſhe would
not diſoblige thoſe, who well de
ſerved to be Abbeſſes of the Con
vent.

In the mean time, the Advo-
tes disgrace still continued; but
misfortune having at that time
ppened to the Chevalier *de Lig-*
erac (the Abbot *de Lignerac*'s Bro-
er) who had been sent into Pri-
n at the request of an infinite num-
er of People, whom he had cheat-
d, the Dutchess *de la Ferte* sent
o enquire for him, and told him,
at she would pardon him, pro-
ided he could get the Chevalier
Lignerac out of Prison. Mon-
eur the Advocate, who knew of
he Intrigue between the Abbot
nd her self, thought it very hard,
at he must be employed for his
ivals Brother, and that his Pardon
ould be obtained at no other Price:
ut she having heretofore punish-
d him for telling truth, he durst
ot then gain-say her, and he pro-
ised her, that if the Chevalier *de*
ignerac were not freed from his
mprisonment, it should not be
or want of his employing all his
redit in order to it. H Mon-

Monſieur the Advocate found
obſtacle in his undertakings,
the Chevalier *de Lignerac*'s Cre
tors were perpetually crying in t
Judges Ears, and having made
appear that he had once alrea
Mortgaged his Eſtate, and that
afterwards had borrowed two hun
red thouſand Crowns upon it, t
Judges let Monſieur the Adv
cate know, that it was impoſſib
for them to ſet him free, and th
was all the accompt he could gi
the Dutcheſs.

He very much apprehended, th
ſhe would not be ſatisfied with th
denial; but the Dutcheſs who l
ved a multitude, and who w
ſometimes vexed for not ſeeing him
told him, that ſhe was obliged
the pains which he had take
and that he might return to h
Houſe, as often as he had a min
to it. Monſieur the Advocate thre
himſelf at her Feet to thank he
He embraced her Knees, and pr
reſtin

ſting to her an eternal fidelity, told her, that her Siſter the Dutcheſs of *Vantadour*, had not alf her Merit; that ſhould he live thouſand years, he would not e able to love her one quarter an hour; that ſhe would cer-inly ſay, that he had no great Vit, becauſe he never could ſpeak ne ſingle word to her, but he did ot care what Reputation he had ith her; provided ſhe would con-der, that ſo great an indifference r ſo amiable a Perſon, could not roceed but from the love which e had for her.

As he ended theſe words, one f the Dutcheſs of *Vantadour*'s Foot-men came in, and having preſen-ed her with a Note from her iſter, ſhe took it and read what ollows.

The Dutchess of *Vantadour's* Letter to the Dutchess *de la Ferte.*

ONE of my very good Friend hath a business depending before Monsieur the Advocate, and believes it so delicate, that he endeavours to get it recommended to him, by all those who have any Credit with him: If I had foreseen this accident, I should willingly have harkened to a great deal of Nonsense, which he would have said to me; but not having the gift of Divination, and besides, loathing so sottish a conversation, I desired him something roughly not to continue any longer. This makes me believe that he has no great good will for me. I have therefore recourse to your intercession to recommend my Friend's business to him, which I pray you to do, as you would your own, and you will oblige a Sister, who is entirely Yours.

The

The Dutcheſs *de la Ferte*, to whom Monſieur the Advocate had juſt then proteſted, that he could never expreſs the leaſt love to the Dutcheſs of *Vantadour*, ſeeing the contrary in this Letter, had more than once a deſire of ſhewing it to him, to divert her ſelf; but fearing leaſt it might be a prejudice to the Gentleman, whom her Sifter recommended, ſhe put the Letter into her Pocket, and ſent away the Footman, whom ſhe commanded to tell her Siſter, that ſhe would do what ſhe deſired. The Footman being gone, Monſieur the Advocate, who was the moſt curious man in the world, would fain have known what the Letter contained, and not being ſatisfied with what the Dutcheſs told him, who endeavoured to put the change upon him, he took an opportunity to put his hand into her Pocket, and having ſnatched it thence, he told her, that he vvould immediately

diately ſee all their ſecrets.

The Dutcheſs, who for the bove mentioned reaſons wou gladly have prevented him fr ſeeing it, endeavoured to tear from him, but not having be able to do it, ſhe told him, th he would extreamly diſoblige he unleſs he would reſtore the Let that very moment. But Monſie the Advocate believing that t more ſhe endeavoured to have again, it was of the greater co ſequence, withdrew a little aſi to read it. The Dutcheſs was n able to hinder him, and he w exceſſively ſurprized, to find there ſuch unexpected matters.

Then he told the Dutcheſs, th Madam *de Vantadour* ſaid what w not true, that he had never ſpoke to her of any thing, and that t let her ſee, that he never had an eſteem for her, he would cauſe h Friend to loſe his buſineſs. Th Dutcheſs *de la Ferte* told him, th

must not do it for her ſake;
at it was no longer her Siſters
ſineſs, but her own, that there-
re it was not with the Dutch-
s of *Vantadour*, that he was a-
out to quarrel, but with the
utcheſs *de la Ferte*. Madam *de*
Ferte found much difficulty to
ain this point upon him, but ha-
ing told him, that ſhe did not be-
eve any thing of what Madam
Vantadour had writ unto her,
ho had a fault common to all
e Women, to wit, to take the
aſt glance for a declaration of
ve, ſhe thereby gave him occa-
on to juſtifie himſelf to her. Mon-
eur the Advocate alledging, that
e Dutcheſs of *Vantadour* muſt then
ave interpreted to her own ad-
antage ſome innocent regards,
e Dutcheſs endeavoured to con-
m him more and more in that
pinion, and ſo inſenſibly brought
im again into a good humour,
nd he afterwards promiſed to do

all, for the Gentleman, that ſ
could deſire.

While all this paſt, *Madam* too
a Maid of Honour, whoſe Beau
created deſires in all the Cou
tiers, and Jealouſie in all her Com
panions. She was of a moſt r
viſhing ſhape, ſo that detractio
that is uſed to catch at every thing
was here at a loſs, all confeſſing
that they had never ſeen any thin
ſo accompliſht, as this amiable Pe
ſon. The Great *Alcander*, who
that time loved Madam *de Mo
teſpan* rather out of an habit, tha
out of paſſion, had no ſooner ſee
her, but he was charmed with he
But he being unwilling to mak
love any more like a young man
but like a great King, employe
a third Perſon to diſcourſe it wi
her; and to the end that his pro
fers of Service might be the be
ter received, he accompanied the
with a Pearl Necklace, and a pa
of Diamond Pendants of great v
lue.

In the mean time Madam *de Monteſpan* was in a mortal fear, leſt this young Beauty ſhould rob her of the Prince's Heart, with whom ſhe had very lately had a falling out ſome few days before. For pretending that he ought to treat her ſtill as he had done in the beginning, ſhe taxed him for having no greater complaiſance for her, and becauſe the Great *Alcander* made anſwer, that they had been too long acquainted to obſerve ſo much Ceremony, ſhe was ſo tranſported with paſſion, as to ſay very diſobliging things unto him. She began with reproaching him of all that ſhe had done for him; that ſhe had forſaken her Houſe, her Children, her Husband, and even her Honour for him; that there was no manner of Complaiſance that ſhe did not continually expreſs to engage him; but that he was of late become very cold and indifferent; that if years had not

brought upon her any imperfections, he ought not to attribute them to her, but to time, that destroys all things; however that she did not yet perceive (thanks be to God) that there was so great an alteration in her Person; but that for him she could say, nevertheless without having any design to anger him, that though he had great cause to be thankful to nature, yet that he was not exempted of all manner of faults; that he had one great one among the rest, which he perhaps never perceived; but that she had been very sensible of it, without ever making any complaint, because she believed that none ought to take such particular notice of those they loved.

The Great *Alcander*, whom no body durst ever upbraid before, was extreamly moved to hear Madam *de Montespan* lay these things, for whom he had done no less than she had done for him; for if she had

forſaken her Houſe, Children, and Husband to ſtick to him, he had abandoned for her the care of his Reputation, which was very much blemiſht, for having loved a Woman, who had ſo great reaſons to be more diſcreet. However, ſince we are more ſenſible of the injuries which we receive from thoſe that we love, than we are of thoſe which we receive from Perſons indifferent to us, he ſuffered not this reproach to fall thus to the ground, but demanding of Madam *de Monteſpan*, what his faults then were, he provoked her to declare them, by informing her of her own; at which Madam *de Monteſpan* was ſo concerned, that ſhe replied unto him, that if ſhe had thoſe imperfections whereof he did accuſe her, yet that ſhe had not in the leaſt any offenſive ſmels about her.

This being as much as to ſay, that the Great *Alcander* was not without them, it is impoſſible to expreſs

expreſs how ill he took this reproach. He told Madam *de Montespan* ſuch things, as were enough to have touched her home, and to have made her recollect her ſelf if ſhe had any ſenſe of Virtue yet remaining. But having entirely given her ſelf over to her paſſions, ſhe was no more moderate in the anſwer, which ſhe gave him, than ſhe had been in the beginning of this Converſation.

While they quarrelled thus vehemently with each other, the Prince *de Marſillac* came to the Cloſet Door wherein they were, and the Great *Alcander* having given him power to enter any where, without demanding leave, he had his Foot already within the Door, when he underſtood by the ſound of the Prince's voice, that he was in anger; this made him ſtop ſhort, and being deſirous to know, whether he might enter, he began to call out aloud Doorkeeper, Doorkeeper;

and

and there being none in the way, he called out louder yet, who is here, that will give me an answer. The Great *Alcander*, who gave ear to every thing that he said, truly guessed, after having given him such permission, that he did so out of discretion, and being glad to have an opportunity to break up so disagreeable a conversation, he told the Prince of *Marsilliac*, that he might come in; which was the reason that Madam *de Montespan* endeavoured to constrain her self, for fear that the report of her disgrace, which she was willing to conceal, should spread over the whole Court.

She departed in a moment afterwards, and left the Great *Alcander* at liberty to open his heart to the Prince of *Marsilliac*, who had a great share of his confidence, and to whom he had given in less than one year, above one hundred thousand Livres in places, for immediately after Monsieur *de Lausun's*

disgrace

diſgrace he forced him to take the Government of *Berry*, which that Favourite had poſſeſt, and which he was unwilling to accept of, becauſe, having never been his Friend, he was afraid, leaſt the world ſhould ſay, that he had provoked the Great *Alcander* to cauſe him to be impriſoned, in order to benefit himſelf of his ſpoils.

The Great *Alcander* looked upon this delicacy to be ſo much the more excellent, as it was rare amongſt Courtiers, and ſince it could proceed only from a great heart, he had yet a greater eſteem for him. Sometime after he again gave him the place of great Maſter of the Wardrobe, void by the Death of the Marquis *de Saintry*, who was killed at the paſſage of the *Rhine*, but he gave it him after ſo obliging a manner, that the Preſent was leſs conſiderable for its greatneſs alone, than for the goodneſs which the Great *Alcander* expreſt towards him, when he

he made it. For he told him, that he gave him that place only to accommodate his Affairs, and not to incommode them; that if it were more profitable for him to sell it, than to keep it, he himself would find out a Chapman, and make him give a Million for it.

Thus the Great *Alcander* still continued to give marks of his amity to the Prince of *Marsilliac*, and the other Courtiers looked upon him as a kind of Favourite, but also as one much more worthy to possess that place, than Monsieur *de Lauzun*, who despised all the world, as if there had been no man worthy to approach him. In the mean time this Favour, which failed not to create a jealousie in all the rest, encreased yet the more, by reason of the cold indifferency, wherein the Great *Alcander* was fallen for Madam *de Montespan*, and of the new passion, which he resented for Madam *de Fontanges*, who was that Maid

Maid of Honour to *Madam*, th
I have before mentioned. For t
Great *Alcander* having commun
cated both the one and the other
the Prince of *Marſilliac*, he w
willing that he ſhould be the m
nager of that Maiden's good Grace
in which he was likely to find n
great difficulty, ſhe being come
Court with a deſign only to pleaſ
the Great *Alcander*.

In effect, her Kindred ſeeing he
ſo fair and well ſhaped, and having
a greater paſſion for their own For
tune, than care for her Honour,
they made a Purſe among them-
ſelves to enable her to come to
Court, and to maintain there an ex-
pence honourable and conformable
to the Poſt, wherein ſhe was entred,
and they having given her proper
inſtructions, ſhe put them in pra-
ctice from the very moment that
the Prince of *Marſilliac* had ſpoken
to her in the Great *Alcanders* be-
half. She therefore told him, that

ſhe

ſhe received with joy the Declaration which he juſt then had made unto her: That the Great *Alcander* had ſuch charming Qualities to make himſelf be beloved, that ſhe muſt of neceſſity be very ill-humoured not to be charmed with his paſſion: But that however, ſhe could place no great confidence in it, as long as Madam *de Monteſpan* poſſeſt his Favour as ſhe did; that ſhe was nice, and could not believe any thing of what ſhe had then heard out of his mouth; that if ſhe had been capable of kindling any fires in his heart, they were only fires that would be almoſt as ſoon quenched as they were kindled, for the Great *Alcander* would no ſooner have ſatisfied his deſire, but he would return to Madam *de Monteſpan*.

The Prince of *Marſilliac*, who deſired to ſucceed the firſt time in his Embaſſy, replyed to that, that if the future may be gueſt at by

by things, that are paſſed; there was no great appearance, that the Great *Alcander*, who was diſpleaſed with Madam *de Monteſpan*, would ever return to her; that he was conſtant when he once gave himſelf up to any one, and that if he had forſaken Madam *de la Valiere*, it was, becauſe ſhe her ſelf had contributed very much unto it, by an unequality of Spirit, that did not pleaſe the Prince. That ſhe might have heard, how that Madam *de la Valiere* before her entring into a Convent for good and all, had gone into one contrary to the Great *Alcanders* pleaſure, who was obliged to fetch her out, after which time ſhe did nothing but diſcourſe to him of the remorſe of her Conſcience, which by little and little weaned him from her, the Great *Alcander* being unwilling to oppoſe her Salvation: That then he loved Madam *de Monteſpan*, and would it may be have loved

loved her ſtill, if ſhe had not behaved her ſelf towards him after a manner, that might poſſibly have befitted a private mans Miſtreſs, but not the Miſtreſs of ſo powerful a Prince, as was the Great *Alcander*, towards whom ſhe ought to have ſhewn a more ſubmiſſive and complaiſant humour; that he would inſtruct her how to carry her ſelf, as occaſion ſhould require, but that for the preſent, ſhe need only tell him ſomething that might ſet the King's mind at reſt. Then he adviſed her as a good Friend not to let ſlip ſo fair an opportunity, ſaying, that if ſhe loſt it through her own fault, ſhe would repent of it for all her life.

Then he related to her the quarrel that the Great *Alcander* had had with Madam *de Monteſpan*, that Ladie's Inſolence, and the King's Reſentment. This laſt Circumſtance having convinced her more than all his reaſons, ſhe ſent the Great

Al-

Alcander word, that if ſhe had been obliged to him for the Preſent which he had made, and which I have already mentioned, ſhe was much more ſo, for what he had ordered the Prince of *Marſilliac* to tell her, and that ſhe was ready to give her ſelf up to him, provided ſhe might have him entirely to her ſelf.

In the mean time Madam *de Monteſpan*, who miſtruſted this Intrigue, employed all her Friends, in order to regain the Great *Alcander's* confidence. Monſieur *de Louvoy*, who was one of them, and even the moſt affectionate among them, adviſed her to ſeek out an opportunity of ſpeaking with him in private. But the Great *Alcander* retaining ſtill his anger, and carefully avoiding all occaſions of being alone with her, it was hard for her to find ſuch an opportunity; until Monſieur *de Louvoy* told her, to be at a convenient hour in the place

here the Great *Alcander* was accuſtomed to meet his Council, and to take her time when he was come thither, to reconcile her ſelf with him.

Madam *de Monteſpan*, having approved of this advice, failed not to be at the deſigned place. The Great *Alcander* being come thither, was very much ſurprized to meet her there, inſtead of the Miniſters. In the mean time Monſieur *de Lou-vois*, who was willing to give Madam *de Monteſpan* time to do her buſineſs, went into a Room adjoyning to the Chamber where they then were, and ſeeing there ſeven or eight Gentlemen of the Court, who were uſed to come thither to ſhew themſelves, when the Great *Alcander* went either in or out, he took a Candle off of a Stand, pretending to ſearch for a Diamond, which he ſaid he had loſt, rightly gueſſing, that ſome of the Servants belonging to the Chamber

Chamber would come to assist him in his search, and one being come to that purpose, he softly whisper-ed him, as he gave him the light that he should cause all those, who were in the Room to depart, and that he should tell the Doorkeeper not to let any body enter, no not even those, who were summoned to the Council.

Thus without its being perceived that it proceeded from him he rid himself of all the importunate; and instead of a Council there was held that day a long Conference between the Great *Alexander*, and Madam *de Montespan*. In the mean time, all knowing that Monsieur *de Louvoy* staid in the Chamber, they believed him to be shut up with the Prince, and the other Ministers, who were sent back without being suffered to enter grew jealous of it, not knowing to what to attribute this long conversation, which occasioned the

there was no Council held that day, which never happened before, the Great *Alcander* being usually very punctual in all his actions.

Though this Conference seemed to have re accommodated all matters, the Great *Alcander* returning according to his custom to Madam *de Montespan's* Lodgings, yet the Prince ceased not to pursue his Amorous enterprise. He saw Madam *de Fontange* in private, he gave her markes of affection, and received the same from her, which could not be so secret, but that it was soon known to the whole Court.

The Great *Alcander* was so well satisfied with this new Conquest, that he gave the Prince of *Marsilliac*, the place of Chief Huntsman, for a reward of his having procured it for him. In the mean time the Great *Alcander*, who had the luck to find fruitful Mistresses, having understood that Madam *de Fontange* was big with Child, he prepared

pared a Houſe for her; and this La-
dy, being much unlike Madam de
Monteſpan, whoſe avarice reacht e-
ven to baſeneſs, was generous even
to prodigality; he therefore gave
her a man to reſtrain this libera
humour; and to take care that ſhe
might ſubſiſt upon an hundred thou-
ſand Crowns a Month, which he
gave her. This Superintendant was
the Duke of *Nouallies*, at which every
body was extreamly ſurprized, his
Devotion ſeeming incompatible
with an Employment that made him
look into ſeveral little reckonings,
which he might have well paſt o-
ver: But ſince every one was reſolved
to think in the firſt place on their own
Fortune, and in the ſecond place up-
on God. The Duke of *Nouallies*, very
far from refuſing this Employment,
gave the Great *Alcander* thanks for
having beſtowed it upon him before
many other Pretenders, and divided
his time between the Great *Alcan-
der*, Heaven, and Madam *de Fon-
tanges*.

In the mean time, Madam *de Montespan* endeavoured to support herself the best she could. She entreated the Great *Alcander*, to be pleased to come at least to her lodgings as he was used to do, and she endeavoured to insinuate to all the world, that her Credit was yet greater than was imagined; that the Great *Alcander's* love for Madam *de Fontanges* was only a transitory love, of which he would soon be weary; and that at last, he would return to her more Amorous, than he had ever been before. Those of her Party endeavoured also to give some Credit to these false reports; but when it was seen, that the Prince did addict himself entirely to his new passion, every one Courted Madam *de Fontanges's* Favour, who procured good Places for some of her Friends, and for the greater part of her Family.

Madam *de Monteſpan*, ſeeing th
the Great *Alcander* weaned hi
ſelf from her every day more a
more, conceived ſo great a rage
it, that ſhe began publickly
ſpeak ill of Madam *de Fontan*
She told every body, that the Gre
Alcander could not be very cu
ous to love a Girl, who had had l
trigues in her own Country, w
had neither Wit nor Breeding, a
who, at beſt, was but a Fair pie
of Painting. She ſaid a thouſa
other things concerning her, mu
more vexatious than theſe, whic
far from bringing back the Gre
Alcander, as ſhe expected, turn
him the more from her.

Madam *de Fontange* was broug
to Bed in a little time after, a
they made uſe of that opport
nity, as it was believed, to Poyſ
her, which was attributed to M
dam *de Monteſpan*; either for th
it was imagined, that one in th
vexation which ſhe was in, muſt

neceſſi

necessity be induced to commit so great a Crime, or because it was believed, that a Lady in Madam *de Fontange*'s Post, could die no other than a violent death. But be it what it will, she fell into a languishing condition presently after her lying in, by reason of a continual Flux of Blood, that, still remaining, hindered the Great *Alexander* to ly any more with her. However he did often Visit her, expressing to her, how sorrowful he was for the condition, whereunto he saw her reduced. But Madam *de Fontanges*, who perceived her self every day a dying, intreated him to suffer her to retire from Court, adding with tears, that the Malice of her Enemies was the cause, that she now had nothing else to think on, but another World.

The Great *Alexander*, who was very glad that she took order with the Affairs of her Salvation, and who also was sensibly concerned

to be preſent at her ſufferings, gran
ted her what ſhe deſired, and th
retired into a Convent in the Su
burbs of St. *James*, whither h
daily ſent to enquire news of he
The Duke *de la Feuillade* went a
ſo thither twice or thrice a Wee
to Viſit her from him, but he a
ways brought back ill news: Fo
this poor Lady having all her n
ble Parts ſpoiled, either by the Po
ſon, or by ſomething elſe, ſaw h
ſelf decline daily, and the Duke
la Feuillade one day, told the Gr
Alcander, that ſhe was paſt all hop
of recovery. In effect, ſhe died
a few days after, leaving after h
death a greater ſuſpicion of her h
ving been Poiſoned, than there h
been during her ſickneſs; for h
ving been opened, there were fou
within her ſome little black ſpe
faſtned to her noble Parts, wh
are, as is pretended, ſigns of Poiſ

The Great *Alcander* expreſſed a ublick ſorrow for the loſs of her, nd being willing to ſhew, that he eſteem which he had for her, ontinued even after her Death, he ave an Abby to one of her Bro- hers, Married one of her Siſters ery advantageouſly, and did ma- y other things in Favour of her amily. In the mean time Ma- am *de Monteſpan* did believe, that he King would now return to her; ut ſhe was quite amazed to ſee adam *de Maintenon* have all his onfidence, which put her into a eſpair, for it being her ſelf, that d raiſed Madam *de Maintenon* what ſhe was, ſhe could not beat that her own creature ſhould be inſtrument to deſtroy her.

That which tormented her yet e more, was, that ſhe did not be- eve, that there was any wanton- eſs in their Correſpondence, which onſequently ought to be of a lon- er continuance; ſince it did not

depend on a wandring love, tha
begins and often ends all in a day
In effect, the Confidence which
the Great *Alcander* hath with Ma-
dam *de Maintenon*, is obſerved to
continue ſtill even to this day,
notwithſtanding all that Madam
de Monteſpan could do to deſtroy it;
and on the contrary, he expreſſes
for her only a kind of decent re-
ſpect, which is nothing elſe but the
leavings of the love of a man of
Honour, who uſes his Miſtreſs ſo,
rather for his own Reputations ſake,
than out of any ſentiments of ten-
derneſs.

It ſeemed that the Great *Alcan-
der* having renounced Love, every
body ought to have renounced it
likewiſe, and that the Ladies after
Madam *de Monteſpan*'s example,
who now pretends to Chaſtity,
ſhould alſo become chaſte; but
their temper and inclination tranſ-
porting them beyond all reaſon, they
ſtill remain in the ſame courſe of
life

ſe. The Dutcheſs *de la Ferte* is more immoderate than ever in her Pleaſures, neither is the Dutcheſs of *Vantadour* her Siſter leſs wanton, though ſhe manages her buſineſs with a little more diſcretion and conduct. As for the *Mareſchaleſs de la Ferte*, ſhe is at any man's ſervice that will give moſt, and is endued with ſo great Humility after certain misfortunes, which have happned to her, reſembling thoſe that I have related of her Daughter in Law, that ſhe hath made a vow never to refuſe any body, provided that they have but mony.

As for what concerns Madamoiſelle *d'Orleans Monpenſier*, after having grieved during ten whole years for the Impriſonment of Monſieur *de Lauſun*, ſhe at length found a way to obtain his Liberty. For conſidering, that all the Riches in the world are nothing in compariſon of ones own content, ſhe hath ap-

appeaſed the Great *Alcander's* an
ger with the Principality of *Dombes*
and the County of *d'Eu*, which ſh
hath aſſured to the Duke of *Maine*
his natural Son. By this mean
Monſieur *de Lauſun* is returned, no
indeed to Court, but to *Paris*, where
he is obliged to live as a private Man.
For the Great *Alcander* would not
permit his Marriage to be declared;
but he is ſo often at the Princeſſes
Houſe, that it is all one as if he lodg-
ed there. In the mean time, this
Princeſs is ſo jealous of him, that
he wiſhes with all his heart he had
never thought on her: She hath
ſet Spies all about him, and he can-
not make a ſtep, that ſhe is not ad-
vertiſed of; ſo that going out o
one Priſon, he is entred into ano
ther, which appears to him no leſ
cruel. She hath given him ſome
Land by the Great *Alcander's* con
ſent; but it is all that ſhe hath
done for him, for ſhe could no
give him one penny of ready money

ha

having loſt all her Credit by this Marriage. For no man is willing to lend her any mony, leaſt it ſhould be hereafter ſaid, that being in a Husband's power, ſhe could not lawfully borrow. This is the occaſion that there are four or five years paſt, ſince ſhe began to build her Houſe at *Choiſi*, without having yet finiſhed it; for the expence of it muſt be taken out of her yearly Revenue. But ſhe would be comforted ſtill for all theſe things, if Monſieur *de Lauſun* were the ſame that he hath been heretofore. I would ſay, if he ſtill poſſeſt the ſame quality towards Ladies, that he once did: But it is reported, that he is now ſo pitiful a Fellow that way, that it is hard to believe, he had formerly been ſo brave. However, it is an imperfection that is common to ſeveral others; for it is known by experience, that every thing muſt have an end, and it is for that reaſon

like-

likewiſe, that the Princeſs a
this day ſays, that he impudent
ly lyed who firſt ſaid, that a
good Horſe never grows a
Jade.

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FINIS

MEROVEUS
A
PRINCE
OF THE
Blood-Royal of *FRANCE*.
A
NOVEL.

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